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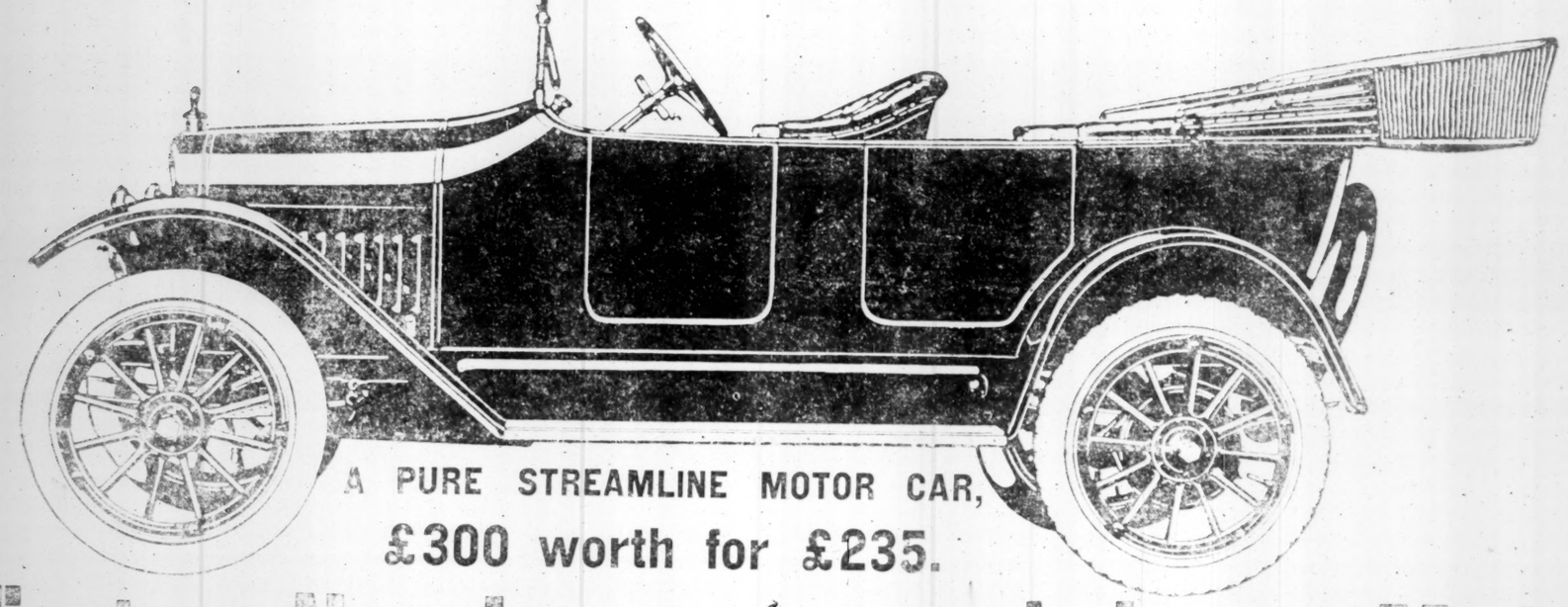

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths (which in all cases must be authenticated) not exceeding 3 lines, 2/6 each insertion. 4 or more lines, 6d. per line. Notices that have appeared in this paper will be repeated in the Weekly Irish Times at half the foregoing rates. Post Office Orders payable to Irish Times, Limited.

BIRTHS

LAIRD—January 22, 1916, at 89 Lower Baggot street, the wife of Colin S. Laird, Corrard, Drumcharbo, of a daughter.

NEILL—January 19, 1916, to the Rev. R. B. and Mrs. Neill, St. Peter's Rectory, Cork, a son.

PRATT—January 22, 1916, at the Munster and Leinster Bank, Rathkeale, the wife of C. W. Pratt, of a son.

WOOD—January 21, 1916, at Ivanhoe, Lansdowne road, the wife of J. Eyre Wood, of Dysa Tea Estate, Northern Bengal, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE

O'CONNOR and EMERY—January 20, 1916, at the Church of the English Martyrs, Streatham, by the Rev. Emery, Valentine Bicars O'Connor, third son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Valentine O'Connor, 67th Regiment, to Beatrice Mary, youngest daughter of the late Rooney Emery, of Cobridge, Staffs.

DEATHS

POTTER—January 16, 1916, at the residence of her daughter Mrs. Corser, Post Office, Rathdrum, Catherine Portia, widow of the late Wm. Davis Potter, R.N., and daughter of the late John Warren, Banagher, Gorey. Interment took place on Friday at Hollyforth. For ever with the Lord.

SHANNON—January 22, 1916, at Hibernian Bank House, Mullingar, Alice, the dearly-loved child of Arthur and the late Jane Shannon, aged 11 years. R.I.P. Funeral from Cathedral at one o'clock to-morrow (Monday) to Walshestown. No flowers.

WEYMES—January 22, 1916, at Private Hospital, 52 Upper Mount street, Dublin, Dalsaer, dearly-beloved wife of Thomas Weymes, of Kinnegad, and mother of F. J. Weymes, J.P., Mullingar. R.I.P. Office and High Mass in Kinnegad Church to-morrow (Monday), 24th inst., at 11 o'clock. Funeral from Kinnegad Church at 2 o'clock same day for Corbletown Cemetery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS received late for insertion in this Column will be found on Page 4.

FUNERAL REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
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ANYTHING in Engineers' Supplies, land and marine. Tools, etc.; can best be obtained from Tuck, Lower Abbey st., Dublin. T

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A T. J. Callaghan and Co., 13 to 16 Dame st.—Military Saddles, Bridles, Wallets, Hunting-flasks. T

TUITION, ETC.
THE STUDENTS' PAGE OF THE WEEKLY IRISH TIMES
This week contains A SPECIAL ARTICLE ON THE POST OFFICE AS A CAREER.
SEE THE STUDENTS' PAGE in the WEEKLY IRISH TIMES This Week.

HOUSES TO LET.
AUCTIONS, Valuations, Insurances, Houses, Purchased, Unfurnished, Let, Sold.—Firm, 21 Upper Ormond quay. T

MISCELLANEOUS.
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WILD RUMOURS.

GREAT ALARM IN BULGARIAN CAPITAL

According to reports from Sofia, the wildest rumours are going the rounds as to the intentions of the Allies. One statement says the Allies intend to advance to Athens, whence King Constantine will retire, with the Court and Government, in conformity with the earnest desire to maintain an armed neutrality.

What (says this report) will M. Venizelos do then? Will he declare a Republic? Will the Army follow him? These and other similar questions are being asked in the Bulgarian capital with undisguised alarm.

The landing in the Piræus took place on Thursday last, when *Eutente* troops, consisting chiefly of French soldiers, were disembarked in the harbour at Phaleron. They were escorted by two French warships, and after making an inspection they re-embarked. Another report adds that Allied troops also landed at Corinth. All these reports come from Bulgarian sources, and there is no official confirmation from Athens.

MARTIAL LAW.

DEEMED INDISPENSABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

An Athens message says:—

Athens has received calmly the notification of the early proclamation of martial law. Government circles deny the rumours that internal troubles are expected. Nothing, they say, justifies the fears expressed. The Government gives assurance that all measures have been taken to ensure respect for the law. Consequently the people do not feel any anxiety. With the object of putting an end to dangerous rumours, the Government considers the application of martial law indispensable.

THE WAR WEEK BY WEEK.

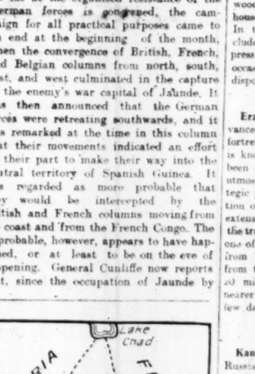
A CRITICAL REVIEW.

(I.)

MONTENEGRO.

The changes in the situation in Montenegro during the past week have been kaleidoscopic. On Tuesday it was announced in the German and Austro-Hungarian Parliaments that the Montenegrin Government had agreed to unconditional capitulation. There was so much truth in this announcement that on the following day the enemy suspended hostilities. On the same day the Italian Press gave currency to suggestions that the capitulation was the result of a long-matured intrigue between the Montenegrin Government and Austria-Hungary. On Thursday the Montenegrin Premier arrived at Brindisi, denied these insinuations, and announced that the enemy's terms of peace had been rejected by King Nicholas, who was remaining in Montenegro to organise a final stand of his forces. Hostilities have since been resumed. So far as it is possible to disentangle the truth from this remarkable sequence of events, it would appear that the Court party, which has long been in somewhat intimate relations with Austria-Hungary, succeeded after the fall of Mount Lovchen and the capture of Cetinje in persuading the King that no good purpose was to be served by further resistance. Overtures for peace were set on foot, and the enemy promptly represented the negotiations as having reached definitive conclusion of surrender, with the double object of making Montenegro suspect in the eyes of the Allies and of confronting with a seeming *fait accompli* the Montenegrin Army, which was in strong favour of continuing the struggle. The enemy seem to have over-reached themselves in this object by the extreme harshness of their conditions. These included the internment of all men up to the age of sixty-five and of some women; the actual laying-down of

all arms, including the antiquated muskets which are the inseparable heirloom of every Montenegrin; and the surrender of all towns, villages, and means of transport. Even the Austrophile elements in the Montenegrin Court and Government found these humiliating terms unacceptable, and the negotiations were at once broken off. The resumption of hostilities finds the Montenegrin Army, if the enemy seriously press their offensive, in a precarious position. It is understood to be concentrated on the hills above Lake Skutari, which cover the town of the same name, the ancient capital of Montenegro, which, though it lies within the political boundary of Albania, has for some months been in Montenegrin occupation. In this district the Montenegrin Army is separated from the Italian forces and the friendly forces of Essad Pasha, which hold the hinterland of Durazzo as far as Tirana, by the hostile tribes of the Northern Albanian Mountains. It seems to be desirable for the Allies to prevent, if they can, or at least to delay, an enemy invasion of Albania; for such an invasion would compromise the prospects of any future Allied advance, simultaneous with an advance from Salonika, by the roads of Southern Albania into Serbia, since an enemy invasion of Albania would threaten the flank of such an advance—an advance which, as has already been remarked, the concentration of the Serbian Army at Corfu appears to contemplate. In this situation it is to the Allies' interest, if it is at all practicable, to maintain the Montenegrin Army as an advanced bastion against an enemy invasion of Albania. Such maintenance would involve the extension of the Allies' sphere of influence in Albania northwards from Durazzo and Tirana towards Skutari. This, however, would be a difficult operation, and it is doubtful whether Italy, whose troops chiefly represent the Allies in Albania, would be prepared to undertake it. In the alternative, if no such immediate function is to be found for the Montenegrin Army, it could be evacuated—as the Serbian Army has been evacuated from the Southern Albanian coast—through the port of Skutari, San Giovanni di Medua,



tions of the relieving column, and any subsequent operations which may be undertaken if and when the siege is raised and the forces unite, are powerfully aided by the Russian action. In Persia the Russians have defeated German-led Turkish forces a few miles east of Kermanshah, and are advancing westwards along the caravan road from Teheran to Bagdad. More remote from the Mesopotamian field of action, but of even more potent influence upon the situation, is the resounding victory which the Russians have won in the Caucasus. After a desperate struggle among the snow-clad mountains south of the Caucasus frontier, the forces of the Grand Duke Nicholas have broken the Turkish centre, and flung it back in extreme disorder upon the forts of Erzerum, the great Turkish base in Northern Armenia. This notable success, while it may not relieve the immediate pressure on the British front in Mesopotamia, must certainly prevent that pressure from increasing. The British and Russian operations are separated by some five hundred miles of territory, but the Turkish fronts both in Mesopotamia and in the Caucasus are fed from a depôt equidistant between the two, and any serious displacement upon one front must inevitably react upon the other.

(II.)

MESOPOTAMIA.

The situation in Mesopotamia has reached a critical phase. General Townshend's forces besieged in Kut-el-Amara have not been further attacked, and it appears that the bulk of the Turkish besieging forces have been drawn off to contest the advance of General Aylmer's column, which is marching up the Tigris to the relief of Kut. Since the relieving column began its march it has fought two actions—one at Sheikh Saad, fifty miles down stream from Kut, and the second at the Wadi position some thirty miles nearer to the besieged town. In both these actions it was opposed by strong Turkish forces, but in both it was successful, and compelled the enemy to retreat. By a stroke of bad luck the operations in this usually one of the driest regions in the world, have been consistently impeded by atrociously bad weather. Climatic conditions, however, have lately improved, and the relieving column has advanced to Essin, where it was stated by Mr. Chamberlain last Thursday to be in contact with the enemy. The decisive action will be fought—is, perhaps, being fought already—at this Essin position. It would be unwise to found upon the experience of the two preceding actions any conclusions as to its issue. In the earlier actions the relieving column was opposed only by such Turkish forces as could be spared from the siege of Kut, and these actions were not fought on strong positions. Now it will be opposed by the main weight of the whole Turkish forces, and these occupy a position of very great strength. It is six or seven miles below Kut, on both sides of the Tigris, which at this point flows almost due east. When the Turks were driven out of it in September it was most skilfully fortified, and one of our officers pronounced it "an absolute work of art." The communication trenches extended for miles, and on the northern bank stretched six miles from the river. The gun ranges were all marked out with flags. The barbed wire entanglements were rendered more formidable by pits with sharp-pointed stakes. There was an elaborate system of observation and contact mines, some of which caused severe casualties. The country is open and the field of fire absolutely flat. We may assume, however, that in tackling this formidable position General Aylmer will have been adequately reinforced. General Townshend may also be able to render him some assistance by making sorties from Kut against the rear of the Turks' Essin position. The operations of the relieving column, and any subsequent operations which may be undertaken if and when the siege is raised and the forces unite, are powerfully aided by the Russian action. In Persia the Russians have defeated German-led Turkish forces a few miles east of Kermanshah, and are advancing westwards along the caravan road from Teheran to Bagdad. More remote from the Mesopotamian field of action, but of even more potent influence upon the situation, is the resounding victory which the Russians have won in the Caucasus. After a desperate struggle among the snow-clad mountains south of the Caucasus frontier, the forces of the Grand Duke Nicholas have broken the Turkish centre, and flung it back in extreme disorder upon the forts of Erzerum, the great Turkish base in Northern Armenia. This notable success, while it may not relieve the immediate pressure on the British front in Mesopotamia, must certainly prevent that pressure from increasing. The British and Russian operations are separated by some five hundred miles of territory, but the Turkish fronts both in Mesopotamia and in the Caucasus are fed from a depôt equidistant between the two, and any serious displacement upon one front must inevitably react upon the other.

(III.)

THE CAMEROONS.

The latest report from the Cameroons discloses a somewhat unfortunate situation. So far as the organised resistance of the German forces is concerned, the campaign for all practical purposes came to an end at the beginning of the month, when the convergence of British, French, and Belgian columns from north, south, east, and west culminated in the capture of the enemy's war capital of Jalunde. It was then announced that the German forces were retreating southwards, and it was remarked at the time in this column that their movements indicated an effort on their part to make their way into the neutral territory of Spanish Guinea. It was regarded as more probable that they would be intercepted by the British and French columns moving from the coast and from the French Congo. The improbable, however, appears to have happened, or at least to be on the eve of happening. General Cunliffe now reports that, since the occupation of Jaunde by the Allied forces, columns have been despatched to the west, south-west, and south of that place "with the object of endeavouring to cut off the enemy's retreat into Spanish territory." These columns, although they have closely followed up the German retreat, do not appear to have come into action at all. Fighting is reported close to the Spanish frontier, but this seems to be no more than action by two small French columns, one from the coast and one from the French Congo, with the extreme wings of the retiring German forces. The German Governor and Commander have already made good their escape into Spanish territory, and it looks as though the bulk of their forces would succeed in following them. In such a case some difficult and delicate problems may arise. Spanish law runs only in the coast district, and is not capable of being effectively enforced by the authorities in the hinterland. If the Germans can so far avoid the Allies' pressure as to make good their escape into the extreme eastern part of the Spanish colony, there may be no means of interning them, and in this case they may be able to support themselves in the neutral territory and use it as a base of raids into their own lost colony. In such a situation the Spanish authorities might, perhaps, be induced to permit the Allies to follow up the retreat and make a final end of the German forces.

W.

THE DOUBTFUL ARMY.

A message from Sofia to the *Cologne Gazette* says it is expected there that there will be strong anti-Royalist demonstrations in Athens. The King only retains the sympathy of the high military officers, while the support of the Army itself is doubtful.

A RUNNING GAZETTEER.

PLACES MENTIONED IN THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Bergen.—Bergen, the fire-stricken Norwegian city, still includes something of a German colony and a considerable number of citizens of German ancestry. These are the relics of Bergen's domination by the Hanseatic League, which lasted from the 14th century to the 16th. It began with peaceful penetration; the Norwegian Kings welcomed the German traders at first. But presently the native merchants found themselves overpowered, forced to pawn their lands to the Hanseatics for the bare necessaries of life, and unable to redeem the pledges. When Magnus Ericson refused further concessions in 1367 the Hansa's fleet pillaged and burned the Norwegian towns, and Norway had to submit. For a century and more the Hansa held Bergen with an armed garrison and monopolised all trade.

Edam.—The Dutch district which has suffered inundation through the breaking of the dykes, is one well known to many British visitors. Edam lies on the North Holland coast, about fifteen miles north-east of Amsterdam. The island of Marken and the village of Monnickendam are a few miles south of Edam. Zwolle is situated on the opposite shore of the Zuyder Zee, about ten miles from the coast. The island of Marken is one of the great "show places" of Holland. It is inhabited by fishermen, all of whom wear the old national costume of the Dutch, wooden shoes, baggy breeches with patches, and all the paraphernalia of the picture postcard. Broek, where the alarm bell was rung, is the famous "show" village, dubbed as the cleanest in Halland—in the world, perhaps. From Edam you take the queer omnibus boat to the quaintest of all villages, Volendam, rendered world-famed by the drawings of Phil May, Nico Jungmann, and others. Practically all the visitors to Volendam are artists, and all the inhabitants their models. Spaander's Hotel is known in two hemispheres, and has a collection of paintings, many done on the walls, worthy of a great gallery, for all the artists who stay there make a point of leaving a souvenir. Some of those paintings will be ruined, for Spaander's was built on the dam. The Zuider Zee, the 80 mile long gulf on the coast of Holland, was formerly a lake, but was united with the North Sea by inundations in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Zee is very shallow, and to avoid the difficulties of its navigation by Amsterdam the Northern Holland Canal was constructed. A great dyke a mile and a quarter in length was built across the eastern mouth of the river Ye at Schellingwoude. Broek, in the Waterland, is about five miles from the coast line of the Zee, and between three and four from Monnickendam, which is on the mainland directly opposite to the island of Marken. Broek is within two miles of the great canal itself, and unless the floods subside an even greater disaster than that which has already occurred would appear to menace Holland's most important waterway. Dutch law gives enormous powers in case of flood to the various polder and other authorities in Holland who come under the Department of State known as the Waterstatt. The threatened or submerged area is at once regarded as in a condition of siege. Its local dyke government, at the head of which is a governor who still bears the title of dijke graaf (dike-count), can occupy any place they think fit, and commandeer all the labour they require from the polder proprietors. There is nothing sacred from their hands. Wagons, carts, motors, horses, all wood and brick can be appropriated, and even houses demolished to supply stop-gap material. In the Constitution, watersnood, which includes the imminence of flood danger, is expressly mentioned with war as an exceptional occasion when no special Act is necessary for dispossession of private property.

Erzerum, threatened by the Russian advance in the Caucasus, is a first-class Turkish fortress, guarding the Armenian vilayets. It is known that during the present war it has been strongly fortified by the Germans, the utmost importance being attached to its strategic position. The town itself has a population of about 50,000, and is the centre of an extensive trade, being a principal station on the trade route from Trebizond to Teheran and one of the chief halting places of the caravans from Teheran to Mecca. Its citadel dates from the fifth century. Hassenkifa is about 50 miles to the east, and some ten miles nearer to Erzerum than Keprikay, captured a few days ago.

Kangavar.—Kangavar, mentioned in recent Russian reports from the Persian front, a small town on a hill 5,740 feet in height, is half-way between Teheran and Bagdad, and fifty miles to the north-east of Kermanshah. It has been occupied by our Ally, Kermanshah, 4,960 feet high, is about 160 miles to the north-east of Bagdad, on which the Russians are advancing, and it has an arsenal and regular troops, which have been since last autumn controlled by Germans.

Montenegro.—"Some acquaintance with Montenegro," writes Sir James Dods Shaw, "impels me to express keen regret—which many other readers may share—on account of the downfall of that gallant little nation. The loss of Cetinje is especially to be deplored, not only on historical grounds, but also because of special features attaching to it as probably the smallest capital in Europe. The usual approach to it is from the Dalmatian coast. A long road winding up the mountain behind Cattaro brings the traveller after some hours of zig-zagging, to a high level which is within easy reach of the tiny city. The upward drive presents a constant variety of picturesque Adriatic scenes. Cattaro lies far below, and so steep is its descent that it would seem easy to throw stones or more dangerous projectiles down into the bay. Arrived at Cetinje, we find it not much larger than an English village, but with some points peculiar to the hardy mountaineers who inhabit this lofty region. It has one main street, broad and straight, but without any striking architectural features. The natives, however, who stroll about lend colour and variety to the scene with their richly coloured characteristic costumes, including (always in the belt a formidable-looking dagger, worn by men and women alike). Only one sentry guards the entrance to the unpretentious palace devoted to the stalwart and venerable King Nicholas, whose subjects are proud of him as a soldier, patriot, painter, and poet. His Majesty adds to those accomplishments no little wisdom and dignity as the chief judge of his realm. In this judicial capacity he has at stated times been in the habit, in primitive patriarchal fashion, of sitting enthroned under an old tree in the garden of his palace and deciding cases of law or equity argued before him by litigants. The Princes lead a simple life, and dwelt in ordinary-looking houses not far from the official dwelling hitherto occupied by their Royal parent. Members of the reigning family might often be seen moving about among the peasantry in the market-place, with no pretension or ceremony beyond the customary salutes of courtesy. Not far distant from the King's palace," adds Sir James, "there is a square building, plain and old, which not only serves as theatre and reading-room, but has also been used as the local Parliament House. Upon State occasions the King and his Ministers sat on the stage, whilst the rank and file of members distributed themselves pro-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.)

STOCK EXCHANGE FINANCE.

WEEKLY NOTES.

IMPROVEMENT TENDENCY CONTINUES. OLD FAVOURITES ADVANCE.

The Dublin Stock and Share Markets during the past week gave further evidence of latent strength, awaiting the opportunity to burst out into brisk dealing and highest prices. In nearly every department signs of better times and prices have developed, and if only the war and its dire effect on finance and the market value of securities was removed there could not fail to be encouraging times for the investor and speculative operator alike. Government Funds have been a little easy in the case of War Loan 4½ p.c. Stock, but Consols remain wonderfully firm. There has been no business in Corporation and Township Stocks. Home-Railways were a firm market, with higher prices for Great Southern and Western and Midland Great Western issues. Railway Pfd.-Ord. Stocks were steady to firm. Banking securities all show more or less improvement on the really fine positions disclosed by the further reports and balance sheets issued during the week for the operations during the December half-year. Good support has been extended to Marconi Wireless Telegraph shares, but subsidiary issues—American and Canadian—though higher on the week close under best. Nothing of interest can be reported in the Steam and Canal group of securities. The strong upward trend in Guinness Ord. shares was continued throughout the entire week, so that the present price, 26, is 1¼ over last week's closing quotation. Dub. in Distillers issues remain interesting, with constant bids for the Debs. Tramway securities have been quietly firm. Dunlop issues have been keenly supported all the week, and Parent Tyre 5 p.c. Ord. have passed over 20s. x.d., a rise of 1s. 1½d. on the week. The volume of support for Textiles, especially English Sewing Cotton and Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. shares, has been good, and important gains have been established. Burke shares have been bid for about last prices, but Miscellaneous securities have been more of less featureless.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Net profits of £210,523 were shown by this bank for the half-year ended 31st August last, including £70,500 brought in from previous half-year. In other words the earnings were £140,000, while the dividend and bonus at rate of 14 p.c. per annum absorb exactly £140,000 of the entire amount. The carry-over balance is scarcely saved at £70,523. No reserve allocation was made, but the reserve fund stands at £1,960,000, or within £50,000 of being equal to the entire paid up capital. Liabilities, the public total £25,700,000. The assets total £29,951,000. Cash and money at call amount to £6,717,000. Investments and remittances in transit £3,625,000. Other liquid assets of £11,242,000. Bills and advances total £18,200,000, and bank premises in London, Australia, and New Zealand £407,000. At the half yearly meeting to be held on 31st inst. in London a special resolution regarding the reserves will be proposed, which, no doubt, will be supported by the shareholders. The bank desires to be placed in a position similar to that of other banks in regard to its reserve fund.

PROVINCIAL TRAMWAYS TRAFFIC.

The accumulated increase to 15th January since 1st October last is now £2,191 on top of last year's previous record figures.

CORK, BLACKROCK, AND PASSAGE RAILWAY.

The position of this company is at present very unhappy for its shareholders, judging by a circular issued recently by the secretary explaining the circumstances that have contributed to the existing disastrous *impasse*. The situation is shortly this—the Board has no profits available to pay even the interest on the Board of Works' Mortgage Loan for the half-year ended 1st November last, let alone as at present the interest on any of the Deb. Stocks for the half-year ended 31st December last. The chief cause for the existing state of affairs is the closing of Cronhawn by the military authorities, all the summer residents and visitors being ordered out of the district. Naturally such a proceeding adversely affected the Co. to the tune of a net loss of £3,000 odd. A claim for compensation to the War Office has been made, and as it is the only case in Ireland in which a station has been closed up for military reasons it is hoped the application will be favourably considered. A big increase in working expenses under the head of coal, labour, and stores added to the trouble of the company. The net results are not yet known until after the accounts for the year are made up. A special meeting of the Deb. holders will be called by the Board to consider the position. The sympathy of the shareholders must, we doubt not, will be extended to the directors in the circumstances detailed in the secretary's circular.

CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The life business for the year 1915 of this the oldest Scottish insurance office shows an increase on 1914, and is as follows:—Number of policies 981, net sum assured £724,465, and new premiums (net), including single premiums, £30,311. Most of the offices reflect a reduction as compared with the 1914 return, as the record of the Caledonian is very creditable these war times.

THE HIBERNIAN BANK REPORT.

A satisfactory position is disclosed by the accounts for the half-year ended 31st December last. The amount due on deposit and current accounts now stands at £4,580,629, an increase of £249,000. The assets total £5,325,000. Cash figures at £675,971, and investments at £1,454,764, or total liquid assets of £2,130,736. Bills discounted, £600,706, show a decrease of £44,000; advances on current accounts loans, etc., total £2,219,032 Sundry agents £30,340, and bank premises and furniture, head office, and 45 branches £143,061. The reserve fund stands at £112,500, an increase during the year of £17,500, but the reserve for depreciation of investments, £115,000 shown a year ago, has been applied to the purpose for which it was created, as that investments have been written down to the current price on 30th July, 1914, while investments made since that date are taken at cost price. The bank's investment list, which is published in detail, comprises securities of the very highest character. The officers' superannuation fund of £36,540 is invested in War Loan 4½ p.c. Stock.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

The London Stock Markets opened the week quietly, and, though the tone has been fairly buoyant throughout, there has been no remarkable feature of business. Argentine Rails opened strongly on the shortage of the stock to supply the demand made on behalf of the United States. Towards the close of the week a reaction set in, owing to the cessation of American buying, but there was another little spurt towards the close. Consols have been well maintained during the week, and the closing yesterday at 58¼, with but little Stock on offer. The War Loan was quiet. Home Rails have been dull after the continuous rise, and prices fell back somewhat on profit taking. The American market has been featureless all the week, and on the Stock Exchange some giddy member has posted up the following epitaph:—"In memory of the American Market, which passed away quietly after prolonged illness patiently borne." The depression is due to bear selling in New York. Canadas have been flat in sympathy. The Rubber share market has recovered its good spirits after a slight set-back owing to a fall in the price of rubber. Quotations for rubber producing shares have been rising quietly, but steadily, and generally prices are better. Oil shares have been quietly steady. Cuban Ports have been a feature in the Miscellaneous market, and on Thursday the shares jumped to 32, but on Friday a reaction brought them lower. There is a mystery about this market for Cuban Ports. Shipping shares have moved but little. Insurance shares have been well maintained, though the demand is less persistent than it has been. Mining

THE ENEMY'S POINT OF VIEW.

A WEEK'S EXTRACTS FROM THE GERMAN PRESS.

Awkward Questions.

Several of the more important interpellations by Herr Liebknecht on the Reichstag agenda for December 20 were not reached. Their text, not published in the German newspapers at the time, has now been disclosed by the Swiss Socialist Press. The questions were as follows:—

1. Is the Imperial Chancellor aware that, during the actual war in the Allied Imperial Ottoman Empire, the Armenian population has been sacked, and hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants massacred? What representations have the Imperial Chancellor made to the Allied Turkish Government in order that those responsible, as in necessary, should be punished, and that the remaining Armenian population in Turkey should be treated with humanity, and similar cruelties prevented?

2. Is the Imperial Government prepared to present, at the earliest possible date, to the Reichstag facts regarding the situation of the populations of foreign territories occupied by Germany; their provisioning, their conditions of health, their legal rights, the number, the manner, and motives of contamination and punishment inflicted by the German authorities, the number of the military requisitions made of the goods of citizens, and their motives, and especially the amount of the contributions imposed upon the Belgian population?

3. Is the Imperial Government ready to present to the Reichstag, without delay, facts concerning the measures generally adopted by the German military and civil authorities during the war, for the abolition of the right of assembly and personal liberty, the disbandment of associations, the violation of private correspondence, police spying in regard to telephone users, arrests, perquisitions, etc., and especially the number of civilians who, during the war, without judicial proceedings, have been arrested; with the number, measures, and motives of the condemnations pronounced against soldiers during the war, and the state of the German military prisons?

Reduced Rations.

As telegraphic messages from Amsterdam have already stated, the German Government has just issued an order reducing the bread allowance per head per day from 225 grammes to 200 grammes—i.e., from about 7·45 oz. to 7 oz. This is part of a definite plan to try to make the present wheat supply last till this year's harvest is available, since the authorities now recognise that the British blockade is not to be relaxed, and that no further wheat supplies can be obtained from Bulgaria or Turkey. In an article headed "Take care of the bread," the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which has always paid special attention to the food question during the war, emphasises the necessity of husbanding flour. "It is now stated officially that, as a result of the inventory taken on September 10 last, the Government believes that our present supply of flour will last until the next harvest, providing a sufficient amount of bread both for the home population and for the troops in the field. This is a most important statement. And while we bear it in mind we must not forget—as our enemies are not likely to forget—that during the second year of war it will be necessary for us to be as careful with our food supplies as we were last year, in order that we may not only hold out but enter upon our third economic year with supplies in reserve. Last August the Government felt it a pure duty to grant certain concessions, such as distributing waste grain among the farmers as fodder and raising the bread ration from 200 grammes to 225 grammes. These concessions, however, it appears, have not yet been included in the *Hamburger Nachrichten*'s list of our supply of wheat was unlimited and that care in using it was no longer necessary. We are now returning to the more strict regime of the earlier months of the war. One of the first results of the new policy will be the reduction in the bread allowance to the above-referred, though it is likewise stated that men engaged in heavy work may have their bread allowance increased, according to circumstances.

"Take Care of the Bread."

This is a point which should not be lost sight of. The extra allowance of twenty-five grammes was not granted to everybody, but it enabled the local authorities to increase the ration of an almost unlimited number of families. In future they will retain the power to increase the allowance, but they will have to do so with care. The present situation, therefore, is that which preceded the earlier stages of the war, and the consumer must be as frugal with his bread now as he was then. He must never forget that the allowance for baking is the largest of them the State can afford, and that it is his duty to use, even less, if possible, so that he may always have a few bread-cards to spare, representing additions which the State authorities will be able to pass on to families that may stand more in need of them. Furthermore, no farmer must use bread or flour of any kind in the production of fodder. Many of them may not like this rule, but it is absolutely essential that it should be followed. The potato bread which our opponents profess to despise . . . *Frankfurter Zeitung*. . . . But which they have long envied us, and form our staple nourishment until the last day of the war.

New Use for Seaweed.

In the desperate search for substitutes for foodstuffs which we have at last turned to account the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, prefacing its remarks apologetically with the saying, "War often makes it necessary for us to use strange things," seeks refuge in the fact that before forming its readers of the latest discovery. After Cæsar had defeated Pompey and Juba at Thapsus, it reminds us, his army was badly in want of food, and there was no corn for the horses. Therefore, says the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, quoting from Plutarch, the troops picked up the seaweed as it was flung on shore by the salty water, rinsed it well, and fed the animals with it. The paper adds that it is clear from this passage that horses at any rate were able at one period in history to live on fodder of this kind. In our own days experiments have been made with the object of ascertaining whether seaweed could not be used for the feeding of cattle. These experiments, which have carried out at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemical Research, Berlin, have been referred to by Herr Beckmann at the Berlin Academy of Sciences. A mixture of seaweed, rye, and potatoes, in the proper proportions, would make excellent fodder for sheep and perhaps also for sheep-dogs.

"Experiments, it appears, have not yet been concluded, but the *Hamburger Nachrichten* hopes that the chemists now making them will soon be able to announce how seaweed may be used by any farmer in making it into the appearance of the seaweed particularly appeals to the writer of the article. There is never any lack of it on the coast, and it would easily dry in the sun."

The point in the opening sentence, we suppose, is that it is intended to carry the moral that, as a result of the investigations, it is impossible to a professor.

Efforts to Attract Money.

The German public is now being requested by the authorities not only to hand over all gold to the Reichsbank, but also to deposit paper money in the banks. It is a general custom in Germany to have accounts, payment by cheque being regarded with a certain amount of mistrust. A determined effort was made some years ago to induce the public to open banking accounts, and it seemed to have a certain amount of success. However, as the public was gaining confidence in the new method of dealing with a financial reform imposed a 10 pfennig stamp on each cheque drawn on a bank account at a bank. This immediately killed the good work of the economists and reformers, for the thrifty German refused to pay a fee of a penny whenever he drew an account by means of a cheque. The Government has frequently been petitioned to remove the cheque tax, especially since the fact that the revenue from it is so insignificant, but it has refused to do so. The consequence is that people are paid in money, which is kept in hand and that rent, taxes, and all bills are paid in cash or in notes. The public is now informed that it is as important to have more than, say, 300 marks in money in the house as it is to keep gold out of the Reichsbank.

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MUSICAL TOPICS.

CONCERTO FORM.

The topic I have chosen this week is topical only to myself. I have no other reason for writing upon it than the one that I happen in the course of my musical browsing of late to have given a good deal of attention to concertos. This is what always strikes me about concertos—that, in performance, they are the most attractive form of absolute music. I use the word absolute as excluding, not programme music, but opera. If you want attracting to music I suppose an opera will always be more likely to appeal to you than an oratorio or an orchestral or chamber concert. Leaving opera aside, a great many people prefer a vocal recital to any other form of musical performance; others like piano recitals best. In the ordinary way, I am not quite sure which I prefer—a good orchestral concert or a good string quartet recital. But for a really brilliant musical event, give me an orchestral concert, with a concerto in the programme. In the concerto, you have, added to the breadth, variety, and sonority of the orchestra, the personal element represented by the soloist. In the case of a pianoforte concerto, for example, you have brought together the distinct interests of an orchestral performance on the one hand, and a pianoforte recital on the other hand. More than that, indeed, for no work for pianoforte alone is on as grand a scale as the pianoforte part in a concerto, and none—not even a Liszt work—displays the brilliance of the instrument to the degree at which it can be displayed in a concerto. Yet more, delightful as it is to notice the perfect co-operation of a large number of players in a perfect orchestra, it is still more delightful to experience the co-operation of a perfect orchestra with a soloist.

Nothing is so effective in bringing the thrills of the concert hall to my mind as the reading or playing over of a concerto score. The brief orchestral introduction, then the quietening down of the orchestra for the entrance of the solo part, the brilliant effect of the soloist's first entrance, the gradually rising excitement of the contention between soloist and orchestra, the tense moment when the orchestra breaks off and leaves the soloist to negotiate alone the traps and difficulties of the cadenza; the relief of the tension when it is seen that the cadenza has been successfully accomplished, and that the orchestral players are awaiting the cue to take up the running; lastly, the brilliant combined passage that closes the movement—such is the regular programme of excitements afforded by one movement alone. The slow movement and the *finale*, each have their own set of thrills, in equally well-marked order. I think the plan of a concerto imprints itself on the mind far more readily than does that of a symphony, though in the strict sense the technical plan is the same in each case.

I always find that after a performance I retain a much more distinct impression of concertos than I do of symphonies. The soloist seems to take one by the hand and lead one through the scheme with a sort of personal guidance that one does not get from the corresponding person—the conductor—in a symphony. I see but now when I heard Mark Hambourg play in the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, the first work I ever heard in that form. Yet, even if I had not studied the work since, I believe my impression of the work would be perfectly distinct. I have heard several concertos—both violin and piano—since then, and in every case my memory of the occasion is remarkably vivid. Amongst those have been the violin concertos of Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikowsky, Mendelssohn, Max Bruch, Elgar, and Goldmark (whose opera, "The Queen of Sheba," was produced here by the Carl Rosa Company some years ago), and the pianoforte concertos of Tchaikowsky and Grieg. I have studied, but never heard, one of the two forgotten concertos written by Chopin. Several of these concertos I have heard more than once, but that of Elgar concerto, which I heard Kreisler, to whom it is inscribed, play twice.

It always seemed a pity that concertos were performed so seldom under the auspices of the Dublin Orchestral Society. I am quite aware of the reasons why for several years, until Signor Simonetti undertook the Beethoven violin concerto with the orchestra, no concerto figured in the Society's programmes. A few were given in the Society's early years—Miss Annie Lord, for example, played, I believe, the Tchaikowsky concerto—but then the objections, one of which was the extra expenditure involved by soloist's fee and hire of piano, began to interfere. The unfortunate consequence was that people who were not able to go over to London in the musical season never had an opportunity of hearing a concerto, except on the occasions when one was played by a visiting violin virtuoso, to pianoforte accompaniment—an unsatisfactory business, as a rule. The one exception was when Dr. Brodsky played the Brahms concerto with Richter and the Halle Orchestra, and that was nine or ten years ago.

THE WEEK'S MUSIC.

To-day—Orchestral Concert, Antient Concert Rooms, 4 o'clock.

To-morrow—Royal Dublin Society—Pianoforte Recital by Miss Annie Lord, Leinster House, 3 o'clock. Programme—Sonate, Op. 31, No. 3 (Beethoven); Prelude, Aria, Final (César Franck); Nocturne, D flat; Preludes, F sharp and F (Chopin); La Cathédrale engloutie, Mouvement (Debussy); Pictures at an Exhibition (M. Moussorgsky).

Tuesday—Tchaikowsky, a Story Recital (artistes—Miss Violet Blackadder, Mr. Lennox Braid, Mr. Vine Sanderson, Mr. Harold White), Clontarf Presbyterian Church, 8 o'clock.

Wednesday—Concert (under the R.D.F. Central Advisory Committee), Rathmines Town Hall, 8 o'clock. (Artistes—Mrs. Levitt, Miss Lena Munro, Miss Joan Burke, Mr. A. Irvine Lynch, Mr. Sealy Jeffares, Mr. Patrick Delany, Miss Gertrude Cuolahan, etc.)

A. W. G.

MISS CAVELL'S BETRAYER.

FATE OF A TRAITOR.

UNKNOWN AVENGER.

The *Echo Belge*, of Amsterdam, learns from Brussels that recently the body of a young man was found in a house in the Belgian capital. Death had been caused by two revolver bullets in the head.

The German police endeavoured to conceal the incident, but it has been ascertained by some Belgians that the victim was a man who had occupied himself in instigating the departure of young Belgians, and had subsequently handed them over to the German authorities.

One of these Belgians, having been denounced by him, had made known the name of his betrayer. The Belgian's father avenged himself by wounding the traitor in the face, but the man recovered, and the father was severely punished by the Germans for maltreating the agent provocateur.

Finally, proof was obtained that the supposed recruiter for the Belgian Army was a dangerous spy, and the real denouncer of Miss Cavell. Some are then took upon himself the task of avenging the heroic nurse, and justice was done.

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IRELAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR.

Lieut. E. W. V. LEACH, 3rd Royal Irish Rifles, wounded in France, is the son of Mr. E. W. Leach, Prospect House, Milltown, Co. Dublin.

Rev. James R. STEWART, temporary Chaplain, killed while on duty in France, was the nephew of Mr. George F. Stewart, Summerhill, Killiney.

Lieut. J. A. STEWART, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, wounded in action, is a brother of Mr. C. E. Stewart, 3 Upper Sherrard street, Dublin.

Private Fred GREENE, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, now lying in the Canadian Hospital at Mudros, is the son of Mr. J. Greene, San Elmo, Torca Hill, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

Private Leslie DENNARD, R.A.M.C., invalided from the Dardanelles with enteric fever, is the only son of the late David Dennard, 1st Gloster Regiment, and of Mrs. Dennard, Rutland square, Dublin.

Private J. C. SHERWOOD, Wellington Infantry, New Zealand Force, died of wounds on hospital ship, is the son of Mr and Mrs. J. Sherwood, Wexford.

Weekly Irish Times Series.

"DIE-HARDS" OF ANZAC

EVACUATION OF GALLIPOLI.

MEN WHO WANTED TO BE LAST TO LEAVE.

The following article has been received from Mr. Malcolm Ross, the official Press representative with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force:—

The *Berliner Tageblatt* early in December stated that the Dardanelles undertaking would have been abandoned long ago if it were as easy to get out of the jaws of the lion as to get into them. Well, here we are, clear out of them, spending a merry Christmas. The jaws of the Turco-German lion snapped just a little too late. The beast has been disappointed of its prey. Only one of the men was wounded, another had his toe crushed by a cart. The story of how all this was accomplished is a fascinating one, but I find we are not allowed to tell it. It is not advisable to inform the enemy how it was done. Meantime the Turkish commander is no doubt bitterly reflecting upon the fact that he failed to snapper our rearguard and that he did not capture even one solitary machine gun.

The great thing from our point of view was to make it appear from day to day as if events were rushing their ordinary course. The deception and the secrecy with which this was accomplished will one day pass into history in detail. Suffice it for the present to say that the final operation orders were a model of clear thinking and common sense, the main principles down to the smallest detail of the great adventure, and that one and all from the higher commands down to the private in the trenches carried them out with a cool and enthusiastic efficiency worthy of the best traditions of our race. To a non-combatant on the peninsula carefully watching events from day to day in the Aegean zone and his gradual withdrawal from each of some of which it seemed almost hopeless to surmount. To such an extent was this the case that the final triumphant success when it did come was a little difficult of realisation. At one stage of the operations some of the Australians played cricket under the eyes of the Turkish gunners. On a little open space on our right a small group of men strolled nonchalantly about, apparently minding nothing in their pockets. A Turkish machine gun scattered that little lot. They had, however, accomplished their object in showing the air of unconcern that pervaded the Anzac zone.

THE HUMORISTS.

Towards the close of the Great Adventure the Australians found it was no uncommon occurrence to see a comfortable dug-out bearing the notice "A Lover. Many of the men left messages for Abdul:—"A Merry Christmas and "Good Wishes for the New Year."

The idea was sedulously cultivated that the men were going into rest camps, but the intelligence of the Colonial troops was of too high an order to permit of the continuance of this deception. A query to the O.C. Artillery as to when his second lot of guns were going into the "rest camp" elicited only a smile, and a suggestion that the guns were getting tired was an insult that rankled but could not be replied to. In the dug-outs in the trenches and in the artillery observation posts various kindly messages and even presents of food were left for our gallant foes.

But underlying all this fun and frolic there was a deeper feeling of sadness that we should be leaving, without a further struggle, the ground so dearly won—the ilex-covered valleys and hills gained and held with the life-blood of so many of the noblest and best of New Zealand's and Australia's sons. Somewhat poetically one of the New Zealand soldiers put this phase of thought to his battalion commander. "I hope, sir," he said "that those fellows who lie buried along the 'Dere' will be soundly sleeping and not hear us as we march away." The idea that his dead comrades might think the living were forsaking them seemed to have made a deep impression on his mind. There was even a thought for those stricken comrades to whom, through the dire necessities of war, burial was denied.

The spirit of the men towards the close was splendid. As the last days drew near the suspense grew greater. Did the Turks know that we were evacuating? Would they attack at the last moment our attenuated lines? These were questions that were ever uppermost in our minds; but even up to the last day we had a supreme confidence in our ability to repel any Turkish attack that might be launched upon us. The New Zealand General—now in command of the Army Corps—finally took all ranks into his confidence, and issued an order expressing his trust in their discretion and their high soldierly qualities to carry out a task the success of which would largely depend upon their individual efforts. In the case of an attack he expressed himself confident that the men who had to their credit such deeds as the original landing at Anzac, the repulse of the big Turkish attack on May 19, the capture of Lone Pine, The Apex, and Hill 60 would hold their ground with the same valour and steadfastness as heretofore, however small in numbers they might be.

SPIRIT OF THE MEN.

The splendid spirit of the men at the finish showed that this confidence was not misplaced. On the Friday, in the firing line on the Apex—the highest ground won in all the fighting—the New Zealanders, who still occupied the post of honour, were tumbling over one another to be the last to leave. The Colonel commanding the Wellington Battalion called for 30 volunteers from two companies. Every man in each company volunteered, so that after all he had to make the selection himself. Men were coming to their commanders and begging that they might be allowed to be in the last lot to go. "Do let me stay," said one man, "I was in the landing, and I should like to be one of the last to leave." It was just the same with the Australians, they all wanted to be in the "Die-hards." "Have you many volunteers for the Die-hards?" one commander was asked. "Every mother's son of them wants to be a 'Die hard,'" he replied. And this was at a time when it was thought that most of the "Die-hards" would for a certainty be either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. In one position on the left when the last lot assembled at the cook-house it was found that there were two missing. One had gone back to the firing-line for his pipe; the other had gone back for something he had left behind in his bivouac.

With such excellent organisation on the part of the staff, and such brave and loyal co-operation and "sang-froid" on the part of the officers and men in the trenches, it is, perhaps, after all, not to be wondered at that the Turks were busy shelling the vacant trenches and the deserted beaches a day after men, mules, and guns had been silently and secretly embarked and were already well across the Gulf of Saros, in the language of the official despatch, "to be employed elsewhere". They had triumphantly succeeded in one of the most difficult of operations—in one that is unique in the annals of warfare.

ALLIED COMMAND AT SALONIKA.

GENERAL SARRAIL'S FULL POWERS.

A GREAT GENERAL.

The French and British troops in Macedonia have been placed under the command of General Sarrail. This measure, it is stated, is welcomed by General Sir Bryan Mahon and the British officers with the liveliest satisfaction.

Writing in the *Liberte*, Lieutenant-Colonel Rousset says that the acquiescence of General Mahon is not surprising in a soldier, whose moral and professional qualities have been so splendidly shown. He has greatly earned the task of the Allies in effecting a unification which shows that between the British and French there is an entire and absolute agreement, a unity, by the way, already effected in the division of naval commands. Example is contagious, and a still wider unity among the Allies in general decisions and their application is now to be hoped for.

GENERAL SARRAIL.

General Sarrail is one of the three or four French commanders of the highest distinction. He will rank in history with Joffre, Castelnau and Foch. At 59 he is at the prime of his powers; yet, despite this comparative youthfulness, he carries the prestige not merely of a highly important pre-war career, but of having held successfully the pivotal point of the Western theatre in the most critical days of the war.

In August, 1914, General Sarrail was given command of the 6th Army at Chalons on the extreme right of the French forces advancing into Belgium. In the great retreat of August this army played a magnificent part. Its resistance to the advancing Germans was tenacious and unwavering; Sarrail's withdrawal of this army to the Meuse was a singularly cool and fine piece of fighting and manœuvring.

On August 30 the General was put at the head of the Third Army in the Verdun region, and his great work was done. Upon his lines along the Meuse heights and in the Argonne all the tremendous attacks of the Crown Prince's army was smashed to atoms. General Sarrail's magnificent defence of this strategical key-position ranks among the highest achievents of war.

FROM ARGONNE TO GALLIPOLI.

His sudden removal from the Argonne command last August caused an immense sensation and a political crisis in France. A Radical and a good Republican in political faith, and with a strong Socialist following, he was regarded, rightly or wrongly, by a powerful section of opinion as a victim of reactionary influences. It is not forgotten that after the Dreyfus scandal he was given General André's right hand man at the War Office during the famous "purge" of the French military caste. Our time affairs were somewhat critical; but a crisis was averted by General Sarrail's unselfish patriotism and his acceptance of the command of the small French expeditionary force on the Gallipoli peninsula. His new appointment will still further cement the "sacred union" of parties in France, which was at the time threatened.

It may, perhaps, be said that no Allied commander has a higher reputation either as an organiser on the large scale or in the command of a difficult operations. It is an excellent augury that the man who carried through the lion's share of the fighting on the Western front should now have charge of the new and highly important theatre of war in the Balkans.

WAR WITHOUT BATTLES.

"CUTTING-OUT" EXPEDITIONS.

The Press Association's special correspondent at the British Headquarters, France, writes:—

In the more spacious days, when the battle honours of the British Army were in the making, the forces now in the field would have withdrawn into winter quarters, to pass the close season of campaign in every-day comfort, for in those days war without the variety of frequent pitched battles was regarded as a business no longer worth while.

Yet although for three months past, since the struggle for the Hohenzollern Redoubt, there has been no action along our front worth dignifying by the name of battle, the process of reducing the enemy has been so constantly and successfully persevered in that his losses would unquestionably represent the average casualties of several battles.

Of course, we have had to pay the price. The official casualty list make this grim truth plain enough. But I am convinced that it is true to say that the German losses in this winter warfare are very much heavier than our own. And that not only because, as I have explained in former messages, for every single enemy shell our gunners plump back two (or ten), but owing to the bold initiative of our troops even in carrying death right into the German lines.

A passage in the official *communique* issued by General Headquarters yesterday serves well to illustrate this. "Last night," it runs, "a raid was carried out on our troops east of Armentieres. About twenty of the enemy were dismissed of. A machine gun emplacement in their lines was blown up. The party returned to our trenches, bringing two prisoners."

This is what is known amongst our men as a "cutting-out expedition." It has become the popular word to describe hereabouts the type of legion—and restive Tommies that commanding officers have to keep a restraining grip upon temptation. The Germans do not at all like cutting-out parties. They keep the moonless nights lurid with flares and star shells in order to search the ground between the lines for any stealthily creeping forms. They waste a lot of ammunition upon shadows. No one is foolish as to suggest that the Teuton ordinarily suffers from nerves. But the frequency with which such little exploits as I have just quoted are carried through against him extraordinarily tells. And yet the wastage from this death-sneaking method goes steadily on. The Canadians are particularly adept at it. The instincts of a trapper are very much more suited to such insidious stalking than goose-step training.

The bomb is the favourite weapon when the moment to spring is reached, although the bayonet is also much in evidence. The machine gunners hesitate to open a fire that must needs prove as deadly to their own men as to their enemies. The toll is levied even before the surprised foe realises that he is paying it. Probably most of the prisoners taken in these attacks are men who have only been waiting the chance to desert in any case.

One of the little problems which our authorities are doubtless seeking to solve is how to facilitate the frankly admitted intentions of numerous Germans in this way. It is such a desperate venture to try and cross the dead ground between the trenches. If the Germans see one of their men making off they naturally speed him with a fusillade. If our men spot a German approaching, they instinctively let loose their rifles first, and wonder what he was up to afterwards. In any case the result is equally satisfactory from our point of view, but the conditions do not as a deterrent upon the great body of potential deserters.

THE NEW BRITISH FIELD HELMET.

The new British steel helmet is beginning to make its appearance. I understand that experiments have demonstrated its effectiveness as a protection against shrapnel and bomb splinters. But there has been no sort of effort to combine utility with symmetry. The pattern worn by the French soldiers has at least got some semblance to the picturesqueness of the musqueteer's helmet, but such specimens of the British article as I have so far seen are an excellent imitation of an inverted zinc jelly-mould, with a broad flange soldered on. I understand, however, that they have the real merit of being—as my informant very lucidly expressed it—"blooming light for their weight."

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

In accordance with the decision of the Government, that all public Museums and Galleries should be closed, the British Museum, including the Natural History Museum, will shortly be closed to the public. The reading room will remain open, but will be closed at dusk. Fuller particulars, including the precise date of closing, will be announced later.

WHEAT PRICES RISING.

Wheat again rose 1s. at Northampton on Saturday, making 60s. Flour also rose 1s. to 55s.

POINTS FROM THE CRITICS.

EXPERT VIEWS ON WAR PHASES.

The Position in the Levant.

The Allies at this moment possess in that field of action (defining the Levant as the countries bordering the Eastern Mediterranean) three formidable elements of advantage in mobility, each one of which gives them the possession of interior lines; that is the power of concentrating at any point of action with greater mobility than the enemy. These three factors are:—

1. Configuration of the coast.
2. The monopoly of sea communication.
3. The lack of homogeneity and the lack of good communications upon the enemy's exterior lines.

A mere glance at the outline of the Eastern Mediterranean shows that if that sea from the Straits of Otranto to the shores of Syria be regarded as the field of operations of the Allies, while all the portion up to the Suez Canal be regarded as the enemy field of operations, the Allies possess in mere geographical outline a very high example of interior lines. If we appreciate that action between the two opponents must develop near the sea coast we see at once the relatively short distances through which an Allied concentration must pass compared with those through which an enemy concentration must pass. An enemy going right round by land to attempt an attack upon the Suez Canal, for instance, or, profiting by the British concentration against such an attack, attempting another surprise movement elsewhere, has the immensely long exterior lines through the portion alone open to him. The Allies have the far shorter lines across the sea from coast to coast. Hardly any good metalled roads, only one trunk line of railway stand upon the one side, opposed to the indefinite power of expansion of sea communication upon the other. A force concentrating on the southern shores of Asia Minor, say, near Adana, with the object of striking at the one railway the enemy possesses for his exterior communications round the Eastern Mediterranean, is, in time, only forty hours by transport at moderate speed from the shores of Egypt. The force to be marched in opposition to it drawn round by land is four, five, or six times that number of hours distant. Land communication in the Levant is quite peculiarly handicapped. There is, what we have already remarked, the handicap of only one railway. That railway is not continuous. Further, it is broken in gauge at one point, though this may be remedied later. Good roads are very nearly absent, and on the top of all this you have the lack of homogeneity in the ground. All the north-western part at the Balkans is a mass of mountains. Communications over the plateau of Asia Minor is easier, but there are the great mountain ranges. There is also the desert.

Put together all these points, and it is clear that the situation of the Allies in the Near East—that is, upon the coast of the Levant—presents a case of possession of interior lines almost unique in military history. Any strategic position wherein fate has given the advantage of mobility to one side is only of value if a moral element be present for the use of this mobility. And that moral element is unity of command. To say that unity of command is vital does not mean that its absence necessarily connotes disagreement, but it does almost always and necessarily connote is difficult and, therefore, delay in co-ordination. In plain English, the advantage now enjoyed by the Allies in the Levant and it is for the moment very considerable, is directly conditioned upon the control of that advantage lying in one will. Lacking this, all the advantage is thrown away.—Mr. Hilaire Belloc in *Land and Water*.

The Allies' Co-ordination.

I might offer a comment on the criticisms which have been offered regarding the failure of co-ordination between the Allied armies. It is the most obvious thing in the world that we benefit most if the Allies are attacking at the same time on all fronts and on all sectors. I have already expressed a view on this subject, but I make it my reservation. The men engaged in conducting the war are trained soldiers with the resources of four great national systems at their disposal, in hourly communication, and well aware of each other's plans weeks before the plans are put into execution. Nobody but a madman would suppose that any offensive, whether it is in the East or the West, is conducted without consultation between the commanders of the two great lines, nor does anybody suppose, for example, that the Russian would begin his offensive towards Czernowitz if General Joffre—who would be consulted—had plans ripe for immediate movement opposed to any demonstration on that front. The very strenuous critics give the impression that General Joffre does not know and cannot read the morning newspaper that any fighting was in course of progress on the Russian front.

The renewal of the fighting in the East is an extremely healthy sign. The Tsar is giving his enemy no breathing space, and I can picture the German General Staff having a very uncomfortable time. We may witness again the violent disturbance of nerves as we did last year, and the despatch into the field of half-trained recruits—a happening which was seen last year as a result of the Russian forward movements in the Carpathians. In a sense this is desirable, but it would, of course, be better if those responsible for feeding the German armies found themselves under the necessity of sending drafts East and West at the same time. Heavy losses inflicted on the enemy in the East would have a painful effect if the Allies of the West followed up that success with another, and subject is to keep the German reserves on the waste. The faster they are warted the sooner the war will be finished. In good time the Western offensive will develop, and the Salonika force will move forward. There is a psychological moment when the general attack on all fronts may be pursued to advantage, and that moment may not be found every day in the week, or every week in the year. We cannot stand still till the right moment arrives, and in the meantime we must credit the enemy with doing their best to improve their local positions.—The Military Correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*.

Enemy's Alternatives.

Either the Austro-Germans must now find reinforcements to meet the oncoming of the new Russian army from the Rumanian frontier or they must transfer the greater part of their left wing over to their right to meet this menace, an operation which would, for as long as the thaw lasts, require a very great deal of time, and would be in any case exceedingly dangerous in view of the weakened condition of their centre. But from whence fresh troops are to be drawn it is exceedingly difficult even to suggest, for of new formations there seem to be none left within the Fatherland at this juncture, and the depots of the existing units are already strained to the utmost merely to replace the normal wastage in the north, where serious fighting has not taken place since the Balkan theatre seems the obvious reservoir, because of the Russians press in from the Rumanian angle the Germans will have to evacuate the peninsula in any case, but against this is to be set the extreme danger which would be incurred for the whole German design if Bulgaria and Turkey were denuded of all signs of German supremacy. It is tolerably safe to predict that if the German troops are withdrawn the Old Turks will immediately turn upon Enver Pasha and his followers, and it is reasonably certain that without German support the Bulgarians will certainly never attack Salonika. But it will cast the Kaiser a severe mental struggle—if he is still capable of such a thing—to abandon these most cherished features of his grandiose designs, for it will be impossible to keep their failure from the German public, who have built very high hopes indeed on the food supplies they expect to receive from the East. Moreover, they are in no temper nowadays to stand further disappointments of so drastics a nature. They might not fret over-much at the abandonment of the attack on Egypt or Bagdad; but the food question touches them in their most vulnerable place. The Socialists and other malcontents now hovering about the frontiers of neutral countries will take good care that the extent of their political and military disasters is not minimised. They do not work to any great extent through the Press, at present, but they have private channels which reach the people very surely and inspire in them much more confidence than would the ordinary newspaper articles.—Colonel Maude in the *Standard*.

THE CHURCHES.

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND NOTES.

Amongst several interesting articles illustrative of Church and general religious progress, published by the *Guardian* in celebration of its seventieth birthday, are two by Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir Frederick Bridge which are certain to prove of general interest.

Sir Oliver Lodge gives his recollections of what he terms the various phases of the religion and science controversy during the last half century. After reviewing the receptions given to the Darwinian scheme and the onslaughts on orthodoxy by Huxley and Tyndall, he makes interesting confessions as to his own position.

He says:—"The pendulum is in process of righting itself, after a few more swings; and, though it would be manifestly presumptuous for me to suppose that I know where it will rest, I feel sure that the position will not coincide with complete rejection of all that has been called miraculous. By which vague term I mean, definitely—and I think others really mean it though many unsatisfying definitions have been given—the intervention in human affairs of intelligences and powers not merely, and in the ordinary sense, human. I admit that this step is a great one; for, once a step beyond humanity is taken, there is no stopping short of the Divine.

"If men are more than bodies, and if memory, affection, and character survive bodily death—as I and many others know that they do—and if telepathy, or psychic communication, by other than bodily organs is a fact, then the gate is opened to a region not exactly beyond the material, but coexistent and continually interacting with it; and from this perception consequences will follow the fulness of which we cannot yet realise.

"Materialists will say that this opens the door to superstition. Very likely—that is one of the dangers to be reckoned with and guarded against; but it also opens the door to a religion acceptable to the intellect as well as to the emotions; a religion not purely subjective, and not solely spiritual, but intercalated with life more closely, more widely, more comprehensively, than any except the very greatest teachers of old time have surmised.

"With me and with many this result of careful inquiry into facts is not a matter of faith only, but of experience; and it seems to me to represent the present outcome of what has now been going on for two generations—namely, the free and healthy interaction, and on the whole friendly discussion, between religion and science."

Sir Frederick Bridge, who discusses music in the Church from 1546 to 1916, recalls the fact that it was the appreciation with which Goss's music for the funeral of the Duke of Wellington was received that encouraged him to continue working at composition and to provide the many beautiful anthems now in constant use both in cathedrals and churches. At the same time, he points out that even Westminster failed for many years to subscribe to Samuel Sebastian Wesley's magnificent volume of anthems, "which are the glory of our cathedral music, and have never been surpassed." It must be acknowledged, says Sir Frederick, that much more attention is given to this part of the service and to the responses than was formerly the case. The great organist at Westminster suggests that there are so much more devotional when taken at a low pitch. He is convinced that a low note also for intoning—G, or even F, if it can be maintained—would do much to make the vexed point more acceptable to congregations. "One hears the prayers sometimes almost shrieked in a very high A or even B, and how this can be reconciled with the direction to say the Confession in a 'humble voice' I cannot understand."

With regard to hymns, Dr. Bridge reminds us that it is not long ago that the singing of hymns was looked upon as unworthy of a cathedral service. When I first came to the Abbey no hymn was permitted at the Morning or Afternoon Services on week days or Sundays! It was only at the special Sunday Evening Services that such "parochial" efforts were tolerated. But it is different now, and nothing stirs my emotion so much as to play a fine old tune in the Abbey with the congregation singing with enthusiasm." Finally, Sir Frederick has a brief comment upon organs:—"Organs, the instruments in our cathedrals and churches, he says, "are infinitely better than they were seventy years ago, though, in my opinion, often larger than they need be. The art of organ-playing has advanced wonderfully, but I am not sure that the art of accompanying has kept pace with it."

Preaching in the Manchester Cathedral upon the words of Christ, "I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done," Bishop Welldon said there appeared to be in some parts of Germany a most distorted conception of the nature of Christ's example, and a complete misunderstanding of His character. Extracts from sermons preached recently in Berlin had appeared in the newspapers. In one of those sermons a German Protestant pastor was reported to have said it was the function of Germany to crucify humanity for humanity's good; that as God allowed Christ to be crucified for the salvation of mankind so Germany was to crucify humanity in order that humanity might be saved. But it never occurred to that pastor, in his distorted conception of Christianity, that when Christ willed to save the human race He did not crucify humanity but Himself. The only parallel to our Lord's example that Germany could afford would be for that pastor, not to crucify others, but himself to hang on the cross.

In his closing words the Bishop Welldon referred to the reports concerning the illness of the Kaiser, and asked the congregation, as Christian men and women, to pray for him. "As on the cross Christ prayed for His enemies," he said, "so let us pray for him, that God may show him mercy."

The *Church Times* prints an English translation of M. Julien Flament's terribly realistic little sketch entitled "The Kaiser at the Crib." The German Emperor, clad in his long grey cloak, "flecked with blood," his forehead furrowed with a menacing frown, is pictured as bowing his helmet before the Crib amid the blue wreaths of the incense. He addresses the Divine Child—"Thou art on our side, O Lord. I am Thy lieutenant. Thou wilt share my triumph. Until now we are victorious. Where I pass the grass never springs again. Lord God of the German armies, bless Thou the German Emperor!" The Christ-Child, silent, seems only to grow pale.

The Kaiser prays again, pleading that he has vindicated the Almighty's glory, caused the nations to "feel and fear Thy power." Does not the fierce flames of burning towns and "acrid incense of the battlefield" ascend to heaven? He promises to plant on the ruins of the world "Thy cross and my flag." At Jerusalem, on Calvary, he undertakes to bestow knighthood on the Grand Turk. As God's sword-bearer he again begs the Divine Blessing. Still the Child is silent, and the Kaiser, with trembling voice, asks—"Have not I done and suffered enough for Thee? Millions of my soldiers lie dead; the ravens are weary of their feast." For the third time he seeks a Blessing.

At last the Christ-Child softly and sorrowfully makes answer: "I would fain bless thee, but I cannot. In Belgium last winter I lost My way. I took shelter beneath a hedgerow from the icy blast. Some drunken German soldiers sprang upon Me. I had no defence but My smile and My tears. What had I done to them? Nothing; I was afraid. To punish Me they drew their swords. How can I bless thee without My hands, the little hands of a Child. . . .—which they have cut off."

In a very stirring address the Bishop of Chelmsford insisted on the immense responsibility resting on Evangelicals by whom, he declared, "the old Evangel . . . not being preached as our fathers preached it, or as St. Paul preached it. Last Sunday night, what was your sermon? If some recruit had come into the church for his last Sunday night in England before going to the front, and perhaps to his death, with the thought in his heart, 'What must I do to be saved?' what help would your sermon have been to him? . . . We have ceased to regard sin as our fathers did. We have not been to the Cross. We have lost the power of the

LATEST OFFICIAL PRICES.

Government Funds

IRELAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR.

Lieut. E. W. V. LEACH, 3rd Royal Irish Rifles, wounded in France, is the son of Mr. E. W. Leach, Prospect House, Milltown, Co. Dublin.

Rev. James B. STEWART, temporary Chaplain, killed while on duty in France, was the nephew of Mr. George F. Stewart, Summerhill, Killiney.

Lieut. J. A. STEWART, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, wounded in action, is a brother of Mr. C. E. Stewart, 3 Upper Sherrard street, Dublin.

Private Fred GREENE, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, now lying in the Canadian Hospital at Mudros, is the son of Mr. J. Greene, San Elmo, Torva Hill, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

Private Leslie DENNARD, R.A.M.C., invalided from the Dardanelles with enteric fever, is the only son of the late David Degnard, 1st Gloster Regiment, and of Mrs. Dennard, Rutland square, Dublin.

Private J. C. SHERWOOD, Wellington Infantry, New Zealand Force, died of wounds on hospital-ship, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sherwood, Wexford.

Weekly Irish Times Series.

THE ENEMY'S POINT OF VIEW.

A WEEK'S EXTRACTS FROM THE GERMAN PRESS.

Awkward Questions.

Several of the more important interpellations by Herr Liebknecht on the Reichstag agenda for December 20 were not reached. Their text, not published in the German newspapers at the time, has now been disclosed by the Swiss Socialist Press. The questions were as follows:—

1. Is the Imperial Chancellor aware that, during the actual war in the Allied Imperial Ottoman Empire, the Armenian population has been sacked, and hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants massacred? What representations have the Imperial Chancellor made to the Allied Turkish Government in order that those responsible, as in necessary, should be punished, and that the remaining Armenian population in Turkey should be treated with humanity, and similar cruelties prevented?

2. Is the Imperial Government prepared to present, at the earliest possible date, to the Reichstag facts regarding the situation of the populations of foreign territories occupied by Germany; their provisioning, their conditions of health, their legal rights, the number, the manner, and motives of condemnation and punishment inflicted by the German authorities, the number of the military perquisitions made of the goods of citizens, and their motives, and specially the amount of the contributions imposed upon the Belgian population?

3. Is the Imperial Government ready to present to the Raichstag, without delay, facts concerning the measures generally adopted by the German military and civil authorities during the war, for the abolition of the right of assembly and personal liberty, the disbandment of associations, the violation of private correspondence, police spying in regard to telephone users, arrests, perquisitions, etc., and especially the number of civilians who, during the war, without judicial proceedings, have been arrested; with the number, measures, and motives of the condemnations pronounced against soldiers during the war; and the state of the German military prisons?

Reduced Rations.

As telegraphic messages from Amsterdam have already stated, the German Government has just issued an order reducing the bread allowance per head per day from 225 grammes to 200 grammes—i.e., from about 7 4.5 oz. to 7 oz. This is part of a definite plan to try to make the present wheat supply last till this year's harvest is available, since the authorities now recognise that the British blockade is not to be relaxed, and that no further wheat supplies can be obtained from Bulgaria or Turkey. In an article headed "Take care of the bread," the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which has always paid special attention to the economic side of the war, emphasises the necessity of husbanding the flour. "It is now stated officially that, as a result of the inventory taken on September 10 last, the Government believe that our present supply of flour will last until the next harvest, providing a sufficient amount of bread both for the home population and for the troops in the field. That is a most important statement. But while we bear it in mind we must not forget—as our enemies are not likely to forget—that during the second year of war it will be necessary so to be as careful with our food supplies as we were last year, in order that we may not only hold out but enter upon our third economic year with supplies in reserve. Last August the Government felt in a position to grant certain concessions, such as distributing waste grain among the farmers as fodder and raising the bread ration from 200 grammes to 225 grammes. These concessions appear to have given rise to the erroneous belief that our supply of wheat was unlimited and that care in using it was no longer necessary. We are now returning to the more strict regime of the earlier months of the war, and one of the first results of the new policy will be a reduction in the bread allowance to the figure we have referred, though it is likewise the case that men employed in heavy work may have their bread allowance increased, according to circumstances.

Take Care of the Bread."

This is a point which should not be lost sight of. The extra allowance of twenty-five grammes was not granted to everybody, but it enabled the local authorities to increase the allowance of an already unlimited number of families. In future they will retain the power to increase the allowance, but they will have to do so with care. The present situation is therefore, is like that which prevailed in the earlier stages of the war, and the consumer must be as frugal with his bread now as he was then. He must never forget that the allowance he is receiving is the largest the State can afford, and that it is his duty to use it, if possible, so that he may always have a few bread-cards to spare, representing allowances which the State authorities will be able to pass on to families that may stand even more in need of them. Furthermore, no one must use bread or flour of any kind in the preparation of delicacies; for the present he must like this rule, but it is absolutely essential that it should be followed. The potato flour which our Opponents profess to despise, concludes the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, but which they have long envied us, must form our staple nourishment until the last day of the war."

New Use for Seaweed.

In their desperate search for substitutes for foodstuffs the Germans have at last turned to seaweed. The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, presumably with the remarks apologetically with the short often makes it necessary for men to eat strange things," sends refuge for instance before forming its readers of its latest discovery. After Count Reventlow of Scapa and Jutland, and Admiral Scheer at Thapsus, it remains for his was to soldier for Nothing. Therefore, says the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, quoting from Plutarch, the troops picked up the seaweed as it was flung on shore by the salty waters, mixed it with soy, and fed the animals with it. The paper adds that it is clear from this passage that horses at any rate were able at one period in history to live on fodder of this kind. In our own day experiments have been made with the object of ascertaining whether seaweed could not be used as a feeding-stuff for cattle. These experiments, which were carried out at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemical Research, Berlin, have been referred to by Herr Beckmann at the Berlin Academy of Sciences. Seaweed, rye, and potatoes, in the proper proportions, would make excellent fodder for cattle, and perhaps also for sheep-dogs." The experiments, it appears, have not yet been concluded; but the *Hamburger Nachrichten* hopes that the chemists now making good may be able to announce how seaweed may be used by any farmer in making fodder. It is the cheapness of the seaweed which particularly appeals to the writer of the article. "There is never any lack of it on the coast, and it would easily dry in the sun" Behind that hint in the opening sentence, we see the experiments further, so as to provide a seaweed mixture for human beings. But nothing is led to suppose, is impossible to a German professor.

Efforts to Attract Money.

The German public is now being requested by the authorities not only to hand over all gold to the Reichsbank, but also to deposits paper money in the banks. It is this general custom in Germany to have all accounts payment by cheque being regarded with a certain amount of mistrust. A determined effort was made some time ago to induce the public to open private banking accounts, and it seemed likely to have a certain amount of success. This, however, as the public was gaining confidence in the new method of dealing with money a financial reform imposed a 10 pfennig stamp on each cheque drawn on a bank. This immediately killed all the good work of the economists and financiers for the thrifty German regarding a tax of a penny whenever he received by means of a cheque. The Government has frequently been petitioned to remove the cheque tax, especially in the fact that the revenue derived from it is insignificant, but it has refused to do so. The consequence is that the public, which is kept in coin or in notes, and that rent, taxes, and all other payments must be paid in coin, and that rent, taxes, and all other payments must be paid in coin or in notes. The public is informed that it is an unpatriotic act to keep more than, say, 300 marks in the house, as it is to keep gold out of the Reichsbank.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.)

MUSICAL TOPICS.

CONCERTO FORM.

The topic I have chosen this week is topical only to myself. I have no other reason for writing upon it than the one that I happen in the course of my musical browsing of late to have given a good deal of attention to concertos. This is what always strikes me about concertos—that, in performance, they are the most attractive form of absolute music. I use the word absolute as excluding, not programme music, but opera. If you want attracting to music I suppose an opera will always be more likely to appeal to you than an oratorio or an orchestral or chamber concert. Leaving opera aside, a great many people prefer a vocal recital to any other form of musical performance; others like piano recitals best. In the ordinary way, I am not quite sure which I prefer—a good orchestral concert or a good string quartet recital. But for a really brilliant musical event, give me an orchestral concert, with a concerto in the programme. In the concerto, you have, added to the breadth, variety, and sonority of the orchestra, the personal element represented by the soloist. In the case of a pianoforte concerto, for example, you have brought together the distinct interests of an orchestral performance on the one hand, and a pianoforte recital on the other hand. More than that, indeed, for no work for pianoforte alone is on as grand a scale as the pianoforte part in a concerto, and none—not even a Liszt work—displays the brilliance of the instrument to the degree at which it can be displayed in a concerto. Yet more, delightful as it is to notice the perfect cooperation of a large number of players in a perfect orchestra, it is still more delightful to experience the co-operation of a perfect orchestra with a soloist.

Nothing is so effective in bringing the thrills of the concert hall to my mind as the reading or playing over of a concerto score. The brief orchestral introduction, then the quietening down of the orchestra for the entrance of the solo part, the brilliant effect of the soloist's first entrance, the gradually rising excitement of the contention between soloist and orchestra, the tense moment when the orchestra breaks off and leaves the soloist to negotiate alone the traps and difficulties of the cadenza; the relief of the tension when it is seen that the cadenza has been successfully accomplished, and that the orchestral players are awaiting the cue to take up the running; lastly, the brilliant combined passage that closes the movement—such is the regular programme of excitements afforded by one movement alone. The slow movement and the *finale*, each have their own set of thrills, in equally well-marked order. I think the plan of a concerto imprints itself on the mind far more readily than does that of a symphony, though in the strict sense the technical plan is the same in each case.

I always find that after a performance I retain a much more distinct impression of concertos than I do of symphonies. The soloist seems to take one by the hand and lead one through the scheme with a sort of personal guidance that one does not get from the corresponding person—the conductor—in a symphony. I was but a boy when I heard Mark Hambourg play in the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, the first work I ever heard in that form. Yet, even if I had not studied the work since, I believe my impression of the work would be perfectly distinct. I have heard several concertos—both violin and piano—since then, and in every case my memory of the occasion is remarkably vivid. Amongst them have been the violin concertos of Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikowsky, Mendelssohn, Max Bruch, Elgar, and Goldmark (whose opera, "The Queen of Sheba," was produced here by the Carl Rosa Company some years ago), and the pianoforte concertos of Tchaikowsky and Grieg. I have studied, but never heard, one of the two forgotten concertos written by Chopin. Several of these concertos I have heard more than once—notably the Elgar concerto, which I heard Kreisler, to whom it is inscribed, play twice.

It always seemed a pity that concertos were performed so seldom under the auspices of the Dublin Orchestral Society. I am quite aware of the reasons why for several years, until Signor Simonetti undertook the Beethoven violin concerto with the orchestra, no concerto figured in the Society's programmes. A few were given in the Society's early years—Miss Anstie Lord, for example, played, I believe, the Tchaikowsky concerto but then the objections, one of which was the extra expenditure involved by soloist's fee and hire of piano, began to interfere. The unfortunate consequence was that people who were not able to go over to London to hear the musical season never had an opportunity of hearing a concerto, except on the occasions when one was played by a visiting violin virtuoso, to pianoforte accompaniment—an unsatisfactory business, as a rule. The one exception was when Dr. Brodsky played the Brahms concerto with Richter and the Halle Orchestra, and that was nine or ten years ago.

THE WEEK'S MUSIC.

To-day—Orchestral Concert, Antient Concert Rooms, 4 o'clock.

To-morrow—Royal Dublin Society—Pianoforte Recital by Miss Annie Lord, Leinster House, 4 o'clock. Programme—Sonate, Op. 31, No. 3 (Beethoven); Préludes, Aria, Final (Cesar Franck); Nocturne, D flat; Preludes, F sharp and F (Chopin); La Cathédrale engloutir, Mouvement (Debussy); Pictures at an Exhibition (M. Moussorgsky).

Tuesday—Tchaikowsky, a Story-Recital (artistes—Miss Violet Blackadder, Mr. Lennox Braid, Mr. Vine Sanderson, Mr. Harold White), Clontarf Presbyterian Church, 8 o'clock.

Wednesday—Concert (under the R.D.F. Central Advisory Committee), Rathmines Town Hall, 8 o'clock. Artistes—Mrs. Levitt, Miss Lena Munro, Miss Joan Burke, Mr. A. Irvine Lynch, Mr. Sealy Jeffares, Mr. Patrick Delany, Miss Gertrude Cuolahan, etc.)

A. W. G.

MISS CAVELL'S BETRAYER.

FATE OF A TRAITOR.

UNKNOWN AVENGER.

The *Echo Belge*, of Amsterdam, learns from Brussels that recently the body of a young man was found in a house in the Belgian capital. Death had been caused by two revolver bullets in the head.

The German police endeavoured to conceal the incident, but it has been ascertained by some Belgians that the victim was a man who had occupied himself in instigating the departure of young Belgians, and had subsequently handed them over to the German authorities.

One of these Belgians, having been denounced by him, had made known the name of his betrayer. The Belgian's father avenged himself by wounding the traitor in the face, but the man recovered, and the father was severely punished by the Germans for maltreating the agent provocateur.

Finally, proof was obtained that the supposed recruiter for the Belgian Army was a dangerous spy, and the real denouncer of Miss Cavell. Some one then took upon himself the task of avenging the brave nurse, and justice was done.

"DIE-HARDS" OF ANZAC

EVACUATION OF GALLIPOLI.

MEN WHO WANTED TO BE LAST TO LEAVE.

The following article has been received from Mr. Malcolm Ross, the official Press representative with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force:—

The *Berliner Tageblatt* early in December stated that the Dardanelles undertaking would have been abandoned long ago if it were as easy to get out of the jaws of the lion as to get into them. Well, here we are, clear out of the jaws, spending a merry Christmas. The lion snapped just a little too late. The beast has been disappointed of his prey at Anzac. One man was wounded, another had his toe crushed by a cart. The story of how all this was accomplished is a fascinating one, but I find we are not allowed to tell it. It is not advisable to tell the enemy how it was done. The Turkish commander is no doubt bitterly reflecting upon the fact that he failed to scupper our rearguard and that he did not capture even one solitary machine gun.

The great thing from our point of view was that it appear from day to day as if events were running their ordinary course. The cleverness and the resource with which this was accomplished will one day pass into history in detail. Suffice it for the present to say that the final operation orders were a model of clear thinking and organisation from main principles down to the smallest detail of the great adventure, and that one and all from the higher commands down to the private in the trenches carried them out with a will co-operation and enthusiasm worthy of the best traditions of our race. To a non-combatant on the peninsula carefully watching events from day to day in the Anzac zone the position seemed to bristle with difficulties, one of which it seemed almost hopeless to surmount. To such an extent was this the case that the final triumphant success when it did come was a little difficult of realisation. At one stage of the operations some of the Australians played cricket under the eyes of the Turkish gunners! On a little open space on our right a small group of men stood strolling chatting about, smoking, with their hands in their pockets. A Turkish machine gun was scattered that little lot. They had, however, accomplished their object in showing the air of unconcern that pervaded the Anzac zone.

THE HUMORISTS.

Towards the close of the Great Adventure the humourists got to work, and it was no unusual sight to see a comfortable dug-out bearing the notice "A Lover . . . Many of the men left messages for Abdul:—"A Merry Christmas" and "Good Wishes for the New Year."

The idea was sedulously cultivated that the men were going into rest camps, but the intelligence of this to permit of the continuance of this deception. A query to the O.C. Artillery as to when his second lot of guns were going into the "rest camp" elicited only a smile. and a suggestion that the guns were getting tired was an insult that rankled but could not be replied to. In the dug-outs in the trenches and in the artillery observation posts various kindly messages and even presents of food were left for our gallant foes.

But underlying all this fun and frolic there was a deeper feeling of sadness that we should be leaving, without a further struggle, the ground so dearly won—the ilex-covered valleys and hills gained and held with the life-blood of so many of the noblest and best of New Zealand's and Australia's sons. Some what poetically one of the New Zealand soldiers put this phase of thought to his battalion commander. "I hope, sir," he said "that those fellows who lie buried along the Dere" will be soundly sleeping and not hear us as we march away." The idea that his dead comrades might think the living were forsaking them seemed to have made a deep impression on his mind. There was even a thought for those stricken comrades to whom, through the dire necessities of war, burial was denied.

The spirit of the men towards the close was splendid. As the last days drew near the suspense grew greater. Did the Turks know that we were evacuating? Would they attack at the last moment our attenuated lines? These were questions that were ever uppermost in our minds; but even up to the last day we had a supreme confidence in our ability to repel any Turkish attack that might be launched upon us. The New Zealand General—now in command of the Army Corps—finally took all ranks into his confidence, and issued an order expressing his trust in their discretion and their high soldierly qualities to carry out a task the success of which would largely depend upon their individual efforts. In the case of as attack he expressed himself confident that the men who had to their credit such deeds as the original landing at Anzac, the repulse of the big Turkish attack on May 19, the carriers of Lone Pine, The Apex, and Hill 60 would hold their ground with the same valour and steadfastness as heretofore, however small in numbers they might be.

SPIRIT OF THE MEN.

The splendid spirit of the men at the finish showed that this confidence was not mis-

placed. On the Friday, in the firing line on the Apex—the highest ground won in all the fighting—the New Zealanders who still occupied the post of honour, were tumbling over one another to get to the beach to leave. The Colonel commanding the Wellington Battalion called for 30 volunteers from two companies. Every man in each company volunteered, so that after he had to make the selections himself. Men were coming to their commanders and begging that they might be allowed to be in the last lot to go. "I want to see stay," said one man, "I was in the landing, and I should like to be one of the last to leave." It was just the same with the Australians, they all wanted to be in the "Die-hards." "Have you many volunteers for the Die-hards?" our commander was asked. "Every mother's son of them wants to be a 'Die-hard,'" he replied. And this was at a time when it was thought that most of the "Die-hards" would for a certainty by either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. In one position on the left when the last lot assembled at the cook-house it was found that there were two missing. One had gone back to the firing-line for his pipe, the other had gone back for something he had left behind in his bivouac.

With such excellent organisation on the part of the staff, and such brave and loyal co-operation and "sang-froid" on the part of the officers and men in the trenches, it is, perhaps, after all, not to be wondered at that the Turks were busy shelling the vacant trenches and the deserted beaches a day after men, mules, and guns had been silently and secretly embarked and were already well across the Gulf of Saros, in the language of the official despatch, "to be employed elsewhere." They had triumphantly succeeded in one of the most difficult of operations—in one that is unique in the annals of warfare.

ALLIED COMMAND AT SALONIKA.

GENERAL SARRAIL'S FULL POWERS.

A GREAT GENERAL.

The French and British troops in Macedonia have been placed under the command of General Sarrail. This measure, it is stated, is welcomed by General Sir Bryan Mahon and the British officers with the liveliest satisfaction.

Writing in *Comoedia Libertè*, Lieutenant-Colonel Rousset says that the acquiescence of General Mahon is not surprising in a soldier, whose moral and professional qualities have been so splendidly shown. He has greatly eased the task of the Allies in effecting a unification which shows that between the British and French there is an entire and absolute agreement, a thing, by the way, already effected in the division of naval commands. Example is contagious, and a still wider unity among the Allies in general decisions and their application is now to be hoped for.

GENERAL SARRAIL.

General Sarrail is one of the three or four French commanders of the highest distinction. He will rank in history with Joffre, Castelnau and Foch. At 59 he is at the prime of his youthfulness, yet, despite this comparative youthfulness, he carries the prestige not merely of a highly important pre-war career, but of having held successfully the pivotal point of the central theatre in the most critical days of the early months.

In August, 1914, General Sarrail was given command of the 6th Army at Chalons on the extreme right of the French forces advancing into Belgium. In the great retreat of August this army played a magnificent part. Its resistance to the advancing Germans was tenacious and unwavering; Sarrail's withdrawal to the Meuse was a singularly cool and fine piece of fighting and manœuvring.

In August 30 the General was put at the head of the Third Army in the Verdun region, and here his great work was done. Upon his lines along the Meuse heights and in the Argonne all the tremendous efforts of the German Crown Prince's army was smashed to atoms. General Sarrail's magnificent defence of this strategical key to France ranks among the highest achievements of war.

FROM ARGONNE TO GALLIPOLI.

His sudden removal from the Argonne command in August caused an immense sensation and a political crisis in France. A Radical and advanced Republican in political faith, and with a strong Socialist following, he was regarded, rightly or wrongly, by a powerful section of opinion as a victim of reactionary influences. It was not forgotten that after the Dreyfus scandal he had been General André's right hand man at the War Office during the famous "purge" of the French military caste. For a time affairs were somewhat critical; but a crisis was averted by acceptance of the command of the small French expeditionary force on the Gallipoli peninsula. The new appointment will still further cement the "sacred union" of parties in France, which was at the time threatened.

It may, perhaps, be said that no Allied commander has a higher reputation either as an organiser on the large scale or in the command of actual operations. It is an excellent augury that the man who carried through the first share of the fighting on the Western front should now have charge of the new and highly important theatre of war in the Balkans.

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WAR WITHOUT BATTLES.

"CUTTING-OUT" EXPEDITIONS.

The Press Association's special correspondent at the British Headquarters, France, writes:—

In the more precious days, when the battle honours of the British Army were in the making, the forces now in the field would have withdrawn into winter quarters, to pass the close season of campaigning in cosily comfort, for in those days war without the variety of frequent pitched battles was regarded as a business no longer worth while. Yet although for three months past, since the struggle for the Hohenzollern Redoubt, there has been no action calling our front worth dignifying by the name of battle, the process of reducing the enemy has been so ceaselessly and successfully persevered in that his losses would unquestionably represent the average casualties of several battles.

Of course, we have had to pay the price. The official casualty list make this grim truth plain enough. But I am convinced that it is true to say that the German losses in this winter warfare are very much heavier than our own. And this not only because, as I have explained in former messages, for every single enemy shell our gunners plump back one (or ten), but owing to the bold initiative of our trenchmen in carrying death right into the German lines.

A passage in the official *communique* issued by General Headquarters yesterday serves well to illustrate this. "Last night," it says, "a raid was carried on by our troops east of Armentieres. About twenty of the enemy were disposed of. A machine gun emplacement in their lines was blown up. The party returned to our trenches, bringing two prisoners."

This is what is known amongst our men as a "cutting-out expedition." It has become so popular with keen subalterns—the type is legion—and restless Tommies that commanding officers have to keep a restraining grip upon temptation. The Germans do not at all like cutting-out tactics. They are at their moonless nights timed with flares and star shells in order to search the ground between the lines for any stealthily creeping forms. They waste a lot of ammunition upon shadows. No one is so foolish as to suggest that the Teuton ordinarily suffers from nerves. But the frequency with which such little exploits are I have just quoted are carried through keeps him extraordinarily vigilant. And yet the wastage from this death-weak method goes steadily on. The Canadians are particularly adept at it. The instincts of a trapper are very much more suited to such insidious stalking than goose-step training.

The bomb is the favourite weapon when the moment for its spring is reached, although the bayonet is always handy. The machine gunners hesitate to open fire that must needs prove as deadly to their own men as to the surprised foe now found that he is paying it. Probably most of the prisoners taken in these attacks are men who have only been waiting the chance to desert in any case.

One of the little problems which our authorities are doubtless seeking to solve is how to facilitate the frankly admitted intentions of numerous Germans in this way. It is such a desperate venture to try and cross the dead ground between the trenches. If the Germans are one of their men making off they naturally speed him with a few-de-joie. If instinctively let loose their rifles first, and wonder what he was up to afterwards. In any case the result is equally satisfactory from our point of view, but the conditions do act as a deterrent upon the great body of potential deserters.

THE NEW BRITISH FIELD HELMET.

The new British steel helmet is beginning to make its appearance. I understand that experiments have demonstrated its effectiveness as a protection against shrapnel and bomb splinters. But there has been no sort of effort to combine utility with symmetry. At least got some semblance to the picturesqueness of the musqueteer's helmet, but have so far seen are an excellent imitation of an inverted zinc-jelly-mould, with a broad brim added on. I understand, however, that they have the real merit of being—as my informant very lucidly expressed it—"blooming light for their weight."

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

In accordance with the decision of the Government, that all public Museums and Galleries should be closed, the British Museum, including the Natural History Museum, will shortly be closed to the public. The reading room will remain open, but will be closed at dusk. Fuller particulars, including the precise date of closing, will be announced later.

WHEAT PRICES RISING.

Wheat again rose 1s. at Northampton on Saturday, making 60s. Flour also rose 1s. to 55s.

POINTS FROM THE CRITICS.

EXPERT VIEWS ON WAR PHASES.

The Position in the Levant.

The Allies at this moment possess in that field of action (defining the Levant as the countries bordering the Eastern Mediterranean) three formidable elements of advantage in mobility, each one of which gives them the possession of interior lines; that is, the power of concentrating at any point of action with greater mobility than the enemy. These three factors are:—

1. Configuration of the coast.
2. The monopoly of sea communication.
3. The lack of homogeneity and the lack of good communications upon the enemy's exterior lines.

A mere glance at the outline of the Eastern Mediterranean shows that if that sea from the Straits of Otranto to the shores of Syria be regarded as the field of operations of the Allies, while all the portion up to the Suez Canal be regarded as the enemy field of operations, the Allies possess in mere geographical outline a very high example of interior lines. If we appreciate that action between the two opponents must depend upon the coast we see at once the relatively short distances through which an Allied concentration must pass compared with those through which an enemy concentration must pass. An enemy going right round by land to attempt an attack upon the Suez Canal, for instance, or, profiting by the British concentration against such an attack, attempting another surprise movement elsewhere, has the immense lonely long exterior lines through the portion alone open to him. The Allies have the far shorter lines across the sea from coast to coast. Hardly any good metalled roads, only one trunk line of railway, and that upon the one side, opposed to the indefinite power of expansion of sea communication upon the other. A force concentrating on the southern shores of Asia Minor, say, near Adana, with the object of striking at the one railway the enemy possesses for his exterior communications round the Eastern Mediterranean, is, in time, only forty hours by transport at moderate speed from the shores of Egypt. The force to be marched in opposition to it drawn round by land is four, five, or six times that number of hours distant. Land communication in the Levant is quite peculiarly handicapped. There is what we have already remarked, the handicap of only one railway. That railway is not continuous. Further, it is broken in gauge at one point, though this may be remedied later. Good roads are very nearly absent, and on the top of all this you have the lack of homogeneity in the ground. All the north-western part at the Balkans is a mass of mountains. Communications over the plateaux of Asia Minor is easier, but there are the great moutain ranges. There is also the desert.

Put together all these points, and it is clear that the situation of the Allies in the Levant—presents a case of possession of interior lines almost unique in military history. This strategic position whether late side is only of value if a moral element be present for the use of that mobility. And that moral element is unity of command. To say that unity of command is vital does not mean that its absence necessarily connotes disagreement, but what it does always must therefore, delay in co-ordination. In plain English, the advantage now enjoyed by the Allies in the Levant, and it is for the moment very considerable, is directly conditioned upon the control of that advantage lying in one will. Lacking this, all the advantage is thrown away.—Mr. Hilaire Belloc in *Land and Water*.

The Allies' Co-ordination.

I might offer a comment on the criticisms which have been offered regarding the failure of co-ordination between the Allied armies. It is the most obvious thing in the world that we benefit most if the Allies are attacking at the same time on all fronts and on all sectors. I have already expressed my view on this subject, but I make this reservation: The men engaged in conducting the war are trained soldiers, with the resources of our trained national systems at their disposal, in hourly communication, and well aware of each other's plans—weeks before those plans are put into execution. Nobody but a madman would suppose that any offensive, whether it is in the East or the West, is conducted without consultation between the commanders of the two great fronts. But one does anybody suppose, for example, that the Russian would begin his offensive toward Czernovitz if General Joffre move—were opposed to any contemplated that front. The very strenuous critics give me the impression that General Joffre does not set the extreme danger which would be incurred for the whole German design if Bulgaria and Turkey were flooded of all signs of German supremacy. It is tolerably safe to predict that if the German troops are withdrawn from Serbia and his followers, and it is reasonably certain that without German support the Bulgarians will certainly never attack Salonika. But it will cost the Kaiser a severe mental struggle—if he is still capable of such a thing—to abandon these most cherished features of his grandiose designs, for it will be the impossible to keep their failure from the German public, who have built very high hopes indeed on the food supplies they expect to receive from the East. Moreover, further disappointments of so drastic a nature. They might not free over-much at the abandonment of the attacks on Egypt or Bagdad; but the food question touches them in their most vulnerable place. The Socialists and other malcontents now hovering about the frontiers of neutral countries will take good care that the extent of their political and military disasters is not minimised. They do not work to any great extent through the Press, at present, but they have private channels which reach the people very surely and inspire in them much more confidence than would the ordinary newspaper articles.

—Colonel Maude in the *Standard*.

THE CHURCHES.

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND NOTES.

Amongst several interesting articles illustrative of Church and general religious progress, published by the *Guardian* in celebration of its seventieth birthday, are two by Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir Frederick Bridge which was the ONLY which are certain to prove of general interest.

Sir Oliver Lodge gives his recollections of what he terms the various phases of the religious and science controversy during the last half century. After reviewing the reception given to the Darwinian scheme and the onslaughts on orthodoxy by Huxley and Tyndall, he makes interesting confessions as to his own position.

He says—"The pendulum is in process of righting itself, after a few more swings; and, though it would be manifestly presumptuous for me to suppose that I know where it will rest, I feel sure that the position will not coincide with complete rejection of all that has been called miraculous. By which vague term I mean, definitely—and I think others definitions have been given—the intervention in human affairs of intelligences and powers not merely of and in the ordinary sense, human. I admit that this step is a great one; for, once a step beyond humanity is taken, there is no stopping short of the Divine.

"If men are more than bodies, and if memory, affection, and character survive bodily death—as I and many others know that they do—and if telepathy, or psychic is a fact, then the gate is opened to a region not exactly beyond the material, but coexistent and continually interacting with it; and from this perception consequences will follow the fulness of which we cannot yet realise.

"Materialists will say that this opens the door to superstition. Very likely—that is one of the dangers to be reckoned with and guarded against; but it also opens the door to a religion acceptable to the intellect as well as to the emotions, a religion not purely subjective, and not solely spiritual, but intercalated with life more closely, more widely, more comprehensively, than any except the very greatest teachers of old time have surmised.

"With me and with many this result of careful inquiry into facts is not a matter of faith only, but of experience; and it seems to me to present the present outcome of what has now been going on for two generations—namely, the free and healthy interaction, and on the whole friendly discussion, between religion and science."

Sir Frederick Bridge, who discusses music in the Church from 1346 to 1916, recalls the fact that it was the appreciation with which Goss's music for the funeral of the Duke of Wellington was received that encouraged him to continue working at composition and to provide the many beautiful anthems now in constant use both in cathedrals and churches. At the same time, he points out that even Westminster failed for many years to subscribe to Samuel Sebastian Wesley's magnificent volume of anthems, which are the glory of our cathedral music, and have never been surpassed." It must be acknowledged," says Sir Frederick, "that much more attention is given to this part of the service and to the responses than was formerly the case. The great organist at Westminster suggests that these are so much more devotional when taken at a high pitch. He is convinced that a low note also for intoning—as G or even F, if it can be maintained—would do much to make this vexed point more acceptable to congregations. Even the prayers sometimes almost shrieked in a few churches. A or even B, and how this can be reconciled with the direction to say the Confession in a 'humble voice' I cannot understand."

With regard to hymns, Dr. Bridge reminds us that it is not long ago that the singing of hymns was looked upon as unworthy of a cathedral service. When I first came to the Abbey no hymn was permitted at the Morning or Afternoon services on week days or Sundays. It was only at the special Sunday Evening Services that such 'parochial' efforts were tolerated. But it is different now, and nothing stirs my emotion so much as to play a fine old tune in the Abbey with the congregation singing with enthusiasm."

Sir Frederick has a brief comment upon cathedrals and churches, and finally upon organs:—"Organs, the instruments in our cathedrals and churches, are in many cases better than they were seventy years ago, though, in my opinion, often larger than they need be. The art of organ-playing has advanced wonderfully, but I am not sure that the art of accompanying has kept pace with it."

Preaching in the Manchester Cathedral upon the words of Christ, "I have given you an example," Bishop Welldon said there appeared to be in some parts of Germany a most distorted conception of the nature of Christ's example, and a complete misunderstanding of His character. Extracts from sermons preached recently in Berlin had appeared in the newspapers. In one of those sermons a German Protestant pastor was reported to have said it was the function of Germany to crucify humanity for humanity's good; that as God allowed Christ to be crucified for the salvation of mankind so Germany was to crucify humanity in order that humanity might be saved. Did it never occur to that pastor, in his distorted conception of Christianity, that when Christ willed to save the human race He did not crucify humanity but Himself." The only parallel to our Lord's example that Germany could afford would be for that nation, not to crucify others, but himself to hang on the cross.

In his closing words Bishop Welldon referred to the reports concerning the illness of the Kaiser, and asked the congregation, as Christian men and women, to pray for him. "As on the cross Christ prayed for His enemies," he said, "so let us pray for him, that God may show him mercy."

The Church Times prints an English translation of M. Julien Flament's terribly effective sketch. "The Kaiser at the Cribb." The German Emperor, clad in his long grey cloak, "flecked with blood," his forehead furrowed with a menacing frown, is pictured as bowing his helmet before the Crib amid the blue wreaths of the incense. He addresses the Divine Child—"Thou are on our side, O Lord! I am Thy lieutenant. Thou wilt share my triumph. Until now we are victorious. Where I pass the grass never springs again. . . . Lord God of the German armies, bless Thou the German Emperor!" The Christ-Child, silent, seems only to grow pale.

The Kaiser prays again, pleading that he has vindicated the Almighty's glory, caused the nations to "feel and fear Thy power." Do not the fierce flames of burning towns and "acrid incense of the battlefield" ascend to heaven? He promises to plant on the ruins of the world "Thy cross and not my flag." At Jerusalem, on Calvary, he undertakes to bestow knighthood on the Grand Turk. As God's sword-bearer he again begs the Divine Blessing. Still the Child is silent, and the Kaiser, with trembling voice, asks—"Have I not, I done and suffered enough for Thee? Millions of my soldiers lie dead; the ravens are weary of their feast." For the third time he seeks a Blessing.

At last the Christ-Child softly and sorrowfully makes answer. "I would fain bless thee, but I cannot. In Belgium last winter I row from the icy blast. Some drunken German soldiers sprang upon Me, I had no defence but My smile and My tears. What had I done to them? Nothing! I was afraid. To punish Me they drew their swords. How can I bless them without My hands, the little hands of a Child, . . . which they have cut off."

In a very stirring address the Bishop of Chelmsford insisted on the immense responsibility resting on Evangelicals by whom, he declared, "the old Evangel is not being preached as our fathers preached it, or as it was preached in the days of Wesley and Whitefield. Last Sunday night, what Paul preached it. Last

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HAS NOW EQUIPPED THE FINEST WORKSHOP IN DUBLIN FOR WATCH, CLOCK, and JEWELLERY REPAIRS.
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The Irish Times.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1916.

A Naval Surprise?

Our London Correspondent tells us today that Mr. Balfour will be asked to give the country, before the rising of Parliament, an assurance that the Navy is in a condition of readiness to meet any new development of the Germans in the matter of new ships and larger guns. This request is, presumably, the sequel to the remarkable article in which Mr. James Douglas developed the theory that the enemy may be preparing a surprise for us in the shape of a 17-inch gun squadron. Mr. Douglas is not, and does not claim to be, a naval expert; but he developed his argument with a cogency that has commanded respect from the experts, who are now making his theory a centre of discussion. Whatever his theory may be worth, this discussion must in any case, we think, serve a useful purpose. We are far too ready to take our naval supremacy absolutely for granted. It is well for us to be reminded that our fleet, upon which our security and our whole prospects in the war depend, is pitted against a resourceful and ingenious enemy; and that, although as a Grand Fleet it has never yet fired a shot, it cannot rest upon the laurels of a bloodless victory, but must ceaselessly be developing its powers to match any possible extension of the enemy's resources. Mr. James Douglas's theory is built partly upon the known activity of the German dockyards, but chiefly upon the belief that the gun which some time ago landed 17-inch shells into Dunkirk from a range of twenty miles was a naval gun. There is no absolute warrant for this belief, and there is a variety of reasons for doubting the theory that the Germans have ships mounting 17-inch guns. Big guns cannot be fitted into ships constructed for guns of a smaller calibre; that is an axiom of naval construction. If, therefore, the Germans intend to produce within the next year a 17-inch gun squadron, they must have commenced to build it at the beginning of the war. But their whole theory of design before the war reposed on the belief that rapidity of fire with smaller guns would be more effective than long-range fire with heavier guns. It was not until the Dogger Bank action of a year ago—the first action between capital ships in the war—that they learned that this belief was wholly fallacious. The assumption that they will shortly be in possession of a 17-inch gun squadron requires us to believe that they anticipated the disastrous experience of the Dogger Bank action, and reversed their whole theory of design long before it. That is a very considerable assumption. Even if we are prepared to make it, however, the enemy's possession of a 17-inch gun squadron need not cause us undue alarm. The doctrine of the big gun's superiority can easily be pressed too far. Because the 13.5-inch guns of our battle-cruisers proved to be better than the 11-inch Krupp gun which the Germans boasted to be the most effective piece of naval ordnance in the world, it may seem to follow naturally than a 17-inch gun would master the 15-inch gun of our Queen Elizabeth class. But such an argument leaves out of account the fact that, after a certain point, the increased size of a gun does not increase the range of fire at sea. The land artilleryman fires from a map at a fixed target; the naval gunner must fire from sight at a moving target. Conditions are very rare in the North Sea when smoke can be seen as much as twenty miles away, or a ship as much as fifteen miles away. It is a question, in these circumstances, whether the limits of effective increase in the size of naval guns have not been approached with the 13.5-inch, and definitely reached with the 15-inch. Apart from the fact that a range beyond the limit of sight is useless, it must be remembered that every increase in power means a decrease in quickness of firing. We can safely leave these questions in the hands of the Admiralty. The naval intelligence service has never failed us yet, and British sailors remain past-masters in the art of solving gunnery problems. We need not doubt Mr. Balfour's ability to reassure the country that we are keeping a step before any advance in naval science that German ingenuity may contrive.

THE DAY IN LONDON.

The Prime Minister left Downing street on Saturday afternoon to spend the week-end in the country.

Sir Edward Grey received at the Foreign Office in the afternoon the French Ambassador and the Serbian Minister.

RECRUITING IN CONNAUGHT.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S VISIT TO GALWAY.

The Galway Recruiting Committee have received intimation that the Lord Lieutenant and Mr. John Redmond, M.P., will attend a conference at the Galway Town Hall on Wednesday, February 2nd, to discuss the recruiting question in all its phases.

Hundreds of invitations have been sent out to public and professional men in Connaught, asking for their co-operation.

TRAIN STRUCK BY AVALANCHE.

FOURTEEN PERSONS KILLED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

SEATTLE, SATURDAY.

A train which had been brought to a standstill at a point in the mountains 120 miles from here was struck by an avalanche, and two cars were rolled into a gulch three hundred feet deep.

It is reported that at least 14 persons were killed and many injured. It was at almost exactly the same spot that a similar disaster occurred in 1910.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society on Thursday the vacancy on the Agricultural Section, caused by the death of Lord Massy, was filled by the election of Lord Powerscourt.

NEW DUBLIN MAGISTRATE.

The Lord Lieutenant has been pleased to appoint Mr. James McMorrough, "Rosemville," Vernon avenue, Clontarf, and 58 Middle Abbey street, Dublin, to the Commission of the Peace for the City of Dublin.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

153 FLEET STREET, LONDON,
SATURDAY NIGHT.

A somewhat dramatic development is reported to-day from the Balkans. The Special Correspondent of the *Evening Standard* reports from Athens that recent movements on the frontier indicate that the Central Powers mean to abandon their boasted intention of making an attack on Salonika. Not only this, but, fearing the growing strength of the Allies, the enemy is organising defensive positions. Roads and bridges on the Greek frontier have been destroyed, while troops have been withdrawn from the Doiran-Strumnitza line. Large German forces have left for the north, apparently to cope with the Russian threat in Galicia and the Bukowina. If these statements are true it indicates the Germans are beginning to realise that they have over-reached themselves in the Balkans.

The event of the next week in Parliament will be the debate on the blockade of Germany. Sir Edward Grey is to reply for the Government, and his speech is awaited with considerable curiosity. It is rumoured that he feels very deeply the attacks made upon the Foreign Office in connection with the charges that the blockade is not strictly enforced. The Prime Minister also will speak. A number of members associate themselves with the motion standing in the name of Mr. Hewins, Mr. Shirley Benn, and others. There will be a debate in the House of Lords on the same day, when the same subject will be under discussion. This time it is a Liberal who will raise the question. Lord Devonport will ask the Government whether they are aware that large and frequent shipments of iron ore and other metals are arriving at Dutch ports; whether precautions are taken by the Government to prevent these from reaching enemy destination; and, if so, what.

In political circles it is asserted that the blockade debate on Wednesday next will put a different point of view before the country from that so prominent at present. The Government will be unable to reveal everything in connection with the blockade, but they will endeavour to show that it is an utter mistake to suppose that the extra imports into neutral countries all find their way into Germany. There is little doubt, however, that the Government will justify some of the strictures made upon them by tightening the blockade considerably, and this is the idea in the United States. This is the reason why the figures regarding the exports to neutral countries have been allowed to be published.

The First Lord of the Admiralty is to be asked on Wednesday by Mr. Wing to make a statement before the rising of Parliament assuring the country that the Navy is in a condition of preparedness for meeting any new development of the Germans in the matter of new ships and larger guns.

A curious message was received in London to-day from the Washington Correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company stating that Lord and Lady Aberdeen announce that they are going to tour the United States for the purpose of raising fifty thousand dollars to save the lives of Irish babies, among whom the mortality owing to the lack of necessaries and the general conditions of war is very great. Commenting upon this message, the *Star* says that it reads like another war babies myth. Ireland is no more distressed by the war than England; on the contrary, as an agricultural country, she has been doing uncommonly well, and, in any case, one would like to know what authority Lord and Lady Aberdeen have for appointing themselves beggars extraordinary to America.

It is said to-day that negotiations have been taking place between the Government and the Labour leaders with a view to arriving at a compromise ofer the Military Service Bill. The Labour men wanted a pledge that, in the event of the Derby scheme giving satisfactory results under the responsible the Bill would be regarded as a dead letter. This was definitely refused, but it is known, nevertheless, that the policy of the Government will run on these lines. Once the Bill is placed on the Statute Book the Government will obtain a summary of the group recruiting figures brought up to date, and these will determine whether it is necessary that the Act shall be enforced. Under such conditions the Labour leaders are asking for as long a period as possible for the extension of the Derby scheme.

Prince Christian celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday to-day, and this is a reminder that in a few months' time he and Princess Christian will keep their golden wedding. There has been no instance of this in the Royal family for over a century, the last example being that of King George III. and Queen Charlotte. The past year has brought many trials to the eldest surviving child of Queen Victoria. The position of her only surviving son as a German officer has given much pain to the Princess, and it is said that she has received a number of impertinent letters on this subject. Princess Christian, by a long and devoted service to the needs of the poor and suffering, has deserved better of her country than this.

It is stated that the privilege accorded to manufacturing jewellers of being allowed to melt down sovereigns for use in their business will shortly be withdrawn. The only persons who will be injured by this withdrawal will be the brides of the future. The principal reason why jewellers melt down sovereigns, instead of gold ingots, is that wedding rings are by custom made of standard or 22 carat gold. Other jewellery is of 18, 15, or even 9 carat. But I do not suppose the prospect of having to put up with a ring of slightly less intrinsic value will deter many young women from marriage—especially as this is leap year.

An amusing commentary upon Mr. Anderson's Bill for the conscription of wealth has been furnished by Sir Herbert Raphael, the Liberal millionaire M.P. He is drafting a conscription of wealth No. 2 Bill, by which the State would be empowered to confiscate all savings bank interest, co-operative society dividends, pensions, and trade union benefits—which Mr. Anderson had omitted from his Bill—together with all wages in excess of those earned before the war. Sir Herbert will be remembered as the member whose departure from the House while Mr. Lloyd George was expounding the super-tax in his 1909 Budget created so much amusement. At the beginning of the war he enlisted as a private, *pour encourager les autres*, but has since accepted a commission.

The *Newspaper World* is informed that, owing to the rapid rise in the price of paper, Alderman W. T. Rothwell, J.P., of Manchester, has decided to suspend the publication of the *Manchester Courier* next Friday. The *Courier* will continue its association with Manchester by appearing as a weekly in conjunction with the *Manchester Weekly Times*.

BALKAN WAR THEATRE.

MONTENEGRO'S DECISION.

ARMY TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT.

PROPOSED JUNCTION WITH SERBIANS.

AUSTRIANS AND DISARMAMENT.

A FORMIDABLE TASK.

MONTENEGRIN KING GOING TO FRANCE.

A telegram from Brindisi late on Saturday night announced the arrival there of the King of Montenegro, with his suite and Prince Peter. His Majesty is on his way to Lyons, where the seat of the Montenegrin Government has been transferred.

Prince Mirko and three members of the Government will remain in Montenegro, at the request of the Army, which continues to fight. The Army will endeavour to effect a junction with the Serbian troops in Albania, and hopes to be able to take part in the protection of that country, with Skutari as its base.

The disarming of the Montenegrin Army is evidently proving a more formidable task than the Austrians anticipated. The Austrian Press Bureau stating that the armament of the Army, owing to the great difficulty in carrying through the disarming, and "some portions of the Army and of the population have not yet clearly understood the necessity for capitulation."

It is further announced that the Austro-Hungarian Army assigned for this purpose has begun to march into the interior, and that those soldiers of the Montenegrin Army who refuse to lay down their arms will be made prisoners of war.

MONTENEGRINS TO FIGHT ON.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

BRINDISI, SATURDAY.

The King of Montenegro, with his suite and Prince Peter, have arrived here on their way to Lyons. Prince Mirko and three members of the Government remain in Montenegro by desire of the Army, which continues to fight. The Army has been placed under the command of General Serdar J. Vakotitcha, former Premier, and it will endeavour to effect a junction with the Serbian contingents in Albania. With the aid of the Allies, the Montenegrin Army hopes that it will be able to participate effectively in the protection of Albania, with Skutari as its base.

MONTENEGRIN GOVERNMENT.

TRANSFERRED TO LYONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

The *Temps* announces that the seat of the Montenegrin Government has been transferred to Lyons.

QUEEN OF MONTENEGRO IN FRANCE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

LYONS, SATURDAY.

The Queen of Montenegro and the Princesses Xenia and Vera arrived here this morning from Rome in an Italian Royal train.

DIFFICULTIES OF DISARMAMENT.

AUSTRIA'S EXCUSE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

A Berlin telegram just received says the newspapers publish a report from the Austrian Press Bureau stating that the Montenegrin Government is experiencing great difficulty in carrying through the disarmament of the Army, owing to the great distances, bad roads, and lack of telephonic communication. Some portions of the Army and of the population have not yet clearly understood the necessity for capitulation.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* published in Vienna to-day says:—

South-Eastern theatre of war.—The disarming of the Montenegrin Army, as the preliminary condition for further peace negotiations, is proceeding. The Austro-Hungarian troops assigned for this purpose, refraining from all hostile acts, have begun to march into the interior. Montenegrin soldiers when meeting our detachments must surrender their arms. They will be allowed, if that surrender is effected without resistance, to remain in their villages and continue their business. Those who offer resistance will be forcibly disarmed and marched off as prisoners of war. This decision is based on military reasons and the peculiarity of the country and its population. It will give peace to a country which for long years has been suffering from the strain of the war. The Montenegrin supreme command has been informed in this sense.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

GERMANY DISAPPOINTED.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

That all is not well with the negotiations between Austria and Montenegro is now being recognised in the German Press.

According to the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, the *Koelnische Volkszeitung* states that Italian reports regarding the refusal of all offers by King Nicholas are, to say the least, greatly exaggerated.

The journal adds—However, it appears to be true that obstacles have arisen in the negotiations; that portion of the Montenegrin Army has refused to lay down its arms. Peace negotiations are, nevertheless, being continued.

German officialism and the German Press never fail on occasion to dilate on the horrible character of Great Britain's starvation policy as carried out by the blockade, but a different view is taken when other countries are concerned. An article in the *Cologne Gazette* on the supposed capitulation of Montenegro contains the following passage—In spite of the Parliamentary habitments with which Montenegro has provided itself, the King has never been disposed to allow the personal rule to be impaired, and he will find means to enforce obedience upon his heroes, to use the expression which among the Slavs in the Balkans has of old been applied to soldiers. An effectual auxiliary is starvation, which of late has made itself more and more felt, and induces even very warlike souls to incline to thoughts of peace, however modest the claims of a Montenegrin in the matter of food may be.

THE ALLIES IN CORFU.

SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS.

The Athens correspondent of the *Evening News*, telegraphing, says:—The Ministers of Britain and France, in the course of an interview with M. Skoulondis, the Premier, have come to some satisfactory arrangements concerning Corfu. Martial law is now very probable. The King has defined its scope in an interview granted to the correspondent of the *Daily Mail* at Athens. He said—

"If Ministers approach me concerning martial law, I shall certainly approve it. I have no intention of attacking free speech or opinion, but I cannot admit that organs of the Greek Press should put forth judgments which wound my Greek feelings. It is not admissible that Greek papers appealing to foreign countries should invite them not to shrink from interfering with the sovereign rights of Greece. Martial law will only be directed against these abuses."

EASTERN FIELD OF WAR.

RUSSIAN ATTACKS AT BESSARABIA.

GERMAN DESPATCH.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

To-day's German official despatch says:—Eastern Theatre of War.—Near Smorgon and round Dunaburg Dvinsk there were artillery duels.

AUSTRIAN DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued in Vienna states:—

Along the entire north-east front yesterday there were artillery encounters. Near Borestiany, in Volhynia, our troops repulsed Russian flying columns. Early this morning the enemy again began an attack against portions of our Bessarabian front.

GREECE'S NEUTRALITY.

A DUTCH VIEW.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The Dutch newspapers generally reproduce King Constantine's interview with the Athens correspondent of the Associated Press of America without comment. The *Nieuwes van den Dag*, however, says—When the Greek Monarch compares his lot with that of Belgium he is, undoubtedly, carried away by his bitterness. Belgium was really neutral. She was attacked in absolute peace, and acted according to the dictates of neutrality by resisting invasion. Greece's neutrality, on the other hand, has been long doubtful. It has concluded an alliance with one of the Allies, and *Entente* troops were allowed to enter Salonika, if not at the request of the responsible Greek Government, at any rate with its full approval. That the responsible Government in Athens—namely, that of M. Venezelos—was constitutionally not entitled so to act may, perhaps, be, but the Allies had nothing to do with that. It can certainly not be expected from the Allies now, after the Greek Government has given them a military basis on Greek territory, that they shall refrain from doing everything that is necessary for their strategical Balkan plans.

A FREE SEA.

FIRST STEP TO CRUSH CENTRAL POWERS.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

Writing in the *Petit Parisien* to-day, Colonel Rousset says—To put the affairs of the Central Empires in a bad state on the southern front is a thing that the Allies can do, if they are good enough to come to an understanding. If, while all possible obstacles are placed in the way of a march into Albania by the Italian, Serbian, and Montenegrin forces at the same time, a serious effort was attempted on sea by the combined fleets, against which the Austrian hardly counts, then one would see the situation changed suddenly in the Balkans and the hour of fruitful offensive approach. The sea free, the sea belonging to us first, then we might venture everything.

BULGARIA'S DREAM.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

A Spanish journalist, Senor Ibanez de Ibero, is telling in the *Echo de Paris* the story of his investigations in Turkey. He has an account of an interview he had with a prominent personage in the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, whose name he has promised not to divulge. In reference to the conclusion of the Turco-Bulgarian Treaty, this personage said—It is very simple. We conquered Turkey with a sword at our throats. Bulgaria challenged us to yield to conditions imposed by her or to expect immediate attack. As is our wont, we bowed our heads. As a matter of fact, Bulgarian ambitions respecting Constantinople have undergone no diminution. Very naive are people who thought to disarm them by territorial concessions. The Bulgarians have always dreamed of becoming masters of Constantinople. They have deceived everybody in this war. Look at the Greeks now, whom they are lulling to sleep like children. One article of the Turco-Bulgarian Treaty, however, concerns them particularly, and that is the one providing for the eventual occupation of Salonika by the Bulgarians. Should Bulgaria keep this port, Turkey obtains as compensation the littoral of the Ægean Sea as far as Kavalla inclusively, and territories recently ceded by Turkey would come back to her.

Greece could not understand Venezelos, her great statesman, and is doomed to disappear, because she has shown herself inferior to her destiny. In fact, however able a man, how can he raise up a country which does not possess the means of fighting and which lacks moral strength?

ITALY AND THE SERBIANS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

ROME, SATURDAY.

The *Tribuna*, mentioning that about half the guests of Rome, greets those noble representatives of the soul of the Serbian nation, and adds—"The hospitality offered by Italians is an outburst from the heart and a warm proof of our sentiments towards the heroic land of Serbia. The Italian nation loves the Serbian people, and will do all it can to hasten the certain accomplishment of the national demands."

SERBIAN REFUGEES.

NEED FOR SPEEDY HELP.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

ROME, SATURDAY.

The English and American relief expeditions have arrived at Brindisi with the last two thousand Serbian refugees. Mr. Geo. Lorrillard, an American *Attaché*, accredited to the Serbian Government, says that there is no chance of any recuperation in Albania, as that country has been war-ridden for four years. There is no food, not even trees, and no bridges over the ice-cold rivers. He also declares that unless the Serbians are helped by others as well as the Italians they will feel themselves totally abandoned.

WESTERN FIELD OF WAR.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON BRITISH FRONT.

The British despatch on Saturday reported artillery activity on both sides at Fricourt, and the successful shelling of German works at other points. Near the Comines Canal the enemy damaged the British trenches with a mine, but our men occupied the crater.

The French in the course of Friday night fired on provision convoys and parties of the enemy at work in Belgium, Champagne, and the Vosges.

BRITISH REPORT.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE,
SATURDAY, 9 P.M.

To-day artillery on both sides has been active at Fricourt. We have bombarded enemy works successfully about Hulluch, Richebourg, and Pilkem.

The enemy sprung a mine near the Comines Canal, causing some damage to our trenches. We have occupied the crater.

FRENCH REPORTS.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIALS)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

The French official *communiqué* says:—

In the course of the night our artillery fired on some provision convoys and parties of the enemy at work in Belgium, Champagne, and the Vosges. The night was calm on the rest of the front.

11 P.M.

There were somewhat violent artillery actions in different sectors. Our fire was particularly effective to the north of the Aisne, in the Berry au Bac district, on our Lorraine front, and in the valley of La Poutroye, in the Vosges.

GERMAN DESPATCH.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

To-day's German official *communiqué* says:—South-east of Ypres we endeavoured by mines enemy trenches extending over a front of 70 metres. Our positions between the Moselle and the Vosges and a number of places behind our front were unsuccessfully bombarded by the enemy.

THE ALLIES' AIR POWER.

The Press Association is informed that M. D. Riabouchinsky, the eminent Russian scientist, has signified his willingness to assist the French and British experts who are already co-operating in the Aeronautical Institute to develop to its fullest limit the air power of the Allies. M. Riabouchinsky is among the most prominent aerodynamical experimenters of the world. His aerodynamical laboratory of Kutchino, near Moscow, is one of the best equipped for delicate research work, and it has been erected regardless of cost. M. Riabouchinsky's contributions to aerodynamical science are of a most valuable character, and have considerably helped the practical progress of aeronautics.

FATAL AVIATION ACCIDENT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

LYONS, SATURDAY.

This afternoon an aviation accident occurred at the aerodrome at Bron. An officer and a soldier were killed.

NURSE CAVELL'S ARREST.

INFORMER SHOT DEAD.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

According to the *Echo Belge*, the man who killed by two revolver shots Nels de Rode, on whose information Miss Cavell was shot by the Germans, is as yet unknown. The Governor, General von Bissing, has promised Brussels 500,000 marks and Schaerbeek, where the body was found, 50,000 marks, because nobody was willing to inform against the person who had committed the deed; which is generally regarded as just.

FREIGHT TAX RUMOURS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

A semi-official paragraph published to-day contradicts the report that the Minister of Commerce had declared that the French and British Governments were preparing to tax freights, and states that the Minister is, on the contrary, doing, and will continue to do, everything possible to obviate an excessive rise in freights, especially where foodstuffs are concerned.

POLICE RAID IN DUBLIN.

PRINTING PRESS AND ARMS SEIZED.

Last night the Dublin Metropolitan Police—plain clothes and uniformed men—made an unexpected visit to several houses in Dublin, under the authority of the Defence of the Realm Act. Among the places visited was a house in Leinster road, Rathmines, where it was stated, they found a printing press, which, with a quantity of type, was removed to Dublin Castle. The police also visited certain houses in Great Brunswick street, where they are said to have found arms and ammunition. No person has been arrested. The search was carried out very quietly.

PAINFUL OCCURRENCE IN KILKENNY.

SUDDEN DEATH AT A MEETING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

KILKENNY, SATURDAY.

A sad occurrence took place last night in the Town Hall, a well-known citizen, Mr. John A. Davis, having died while actually presiding at what was intended to be a very interesting function. A large company had assembled about 8 o'clock in the Assembly Room for the purpose of making a presentation to Miss A. M. Cheere, L.T.S.M., who had recently conducted a successful entertainment in the Kilkenny Theatre for the benefit of soldiers of the Royal Irish Regiment who are prisoners of war in Germany. Mr. Davis, who was a gentleman of musical tastes and was for many years a member of the choir of St. Canice's Cathedral, had only just concluded his opening remarks when he collapsed. Mr. D. J. Stapleton, a chemist, who was one of the company, hastened to his pharmacy for restoratives, which were at once administered, and in a few minutes Dr. A. E. Stephenson was also on the scene, but before his arrival life was extinct. Mr. Davis's death was a great shock to the company, and many of the ladies fainted. A particularly painful feature of the occurrence was the presence of one of Mr. Davis's daughters, who, however, was conveyed home by some of her lady friends before she fully realised her great bereavement. The remains were subsequently removed to the deceased gentleman's residence. The cause of death was heart failure. For some years Mr. Davis had been undergoing a special course of treatment for heart trouble.

Mr. Davis was agent for the Marquis of Ormonde's city property, and was also secretary of the Kilkenny Gas Company. One of his sons, Lieutenant C. J. Davis, Royal Irish Regiment, is at present in France with his battalion, having volunteered for active service shortly after the outbreak of war.

SOUTHERN FIELD OF WAR.

VIGOROUS ITALIAN ARTILLERY FIRE.

Both the Italian and Austrian reports speak of the activity of the Italian gunners. On the Carso the Italians claim to have taken a quantity of rifles, hand grenades, and entrenching tools; but they admit that the Austrian artillery damaged a number of their villages.

ITALIAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

ROME, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued to-day says:—Along the whole of the front there has been intermittent artillery activity. The enemy's artillery did some damage in various villages, especially in the Val Sugana. Our artillery demolished the hotel at Lavarone, which was occupied by the enemy, and dispersed enemy detachments in the valley of San Pellegrino (Avino Torrent) and at Cervara (Gador Forcuit). In the Pleano zone and on Mount Sleme (Monte Nero) small infantry engagements terminated favourably for us. On the Carso Plateau one of our detachments, advancing towards the enemy's lines to harass him and disturb his fortification works, succeeded in taking rifles, entrenching tools, and hand grenades. An enemy aeroplane dropped bombs on Dogna Altofella without doing us the least damage.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The activity of the Italian artillery yesterday was more vigorous than recently in several sectors of the front, the coastal district and the Dolomites. Riva was again shelled by heavy guns.

AMERICANS AND BELLIGERENT POWERS.

COLONEL HOUSE INTERVIEWED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

Colonel House, President Wilson's special envoy to the American Embassies and Legations in Europe, interviewed to-day, said that his mission was to make known to the American Ambassadors and Ministers verbally, precisely, and directly the views of the President as to the grave questions regarding which they have to treat at the present moment with the various belligerent Powers, especially those relating to submarine warfare and the blockade. He is also to take back to the President a precise account of the impressions he may gather regarding the war, and regarding the positions of the different belligerent nations and the feelings animating them.

Colonel House added that his mission had no relation, either immediate or distant, to eventual mediation. He was now going to Switzerland, and it would not be till his return that he should enter into communication with the French Government. In conclusion, he dwelt on the close sympathies between France and the United States.

FLOODS IN HOLLAND.

CRITICAL SITUATION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The situation around Purmerend is still very critical. The weather is rather stormy, and there has been no subsidence of the high water mark. The Sanitary Commission has ordered the evacuation of the houses on the southern polder. In the Oost Zaan polder, near Zaandam, last night, the water rose an inch or two, but came to a standstill at two o'clock this morning. Yesterday the repairing of the Zaan dyke between Zaandam and Purmerend was begun. This is expected to reduce pressure on the dyke between Wijede and Warmer.

FLOODS IN JAVA.

SEVERAL PERSONS KILLED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

BATAVIA, JAN. 21.

Telegrams from all parts of Java report floods everywhere. In Batavia hundreds of natives have fled to other quarters. Two landslides have occurred, which have upset railway traffic. In the vicinity of Samarang thirty-eight houses collapsed, and eighteen houses were destroyed through masses of earth falling on them, killing four persons and injuring eight. Seven others are missing.

FORMER PRUSSIAN MINISTER DEAD.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

According to a telegram to the *Hamburger Nachrichten* from Berlin Herr Viktor von Podbielski, formerly Prussian Minister of Agriculture, died last night from heart failure.

GREAT FIRE IN NORWAY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM)

AALESUND, SATURDAY.

The fire at Molde was still raging at midnight. The telegraph station has not been destroyed, as was at first reported. From 800 to 1,000 persons are homeless. There have been no casualties.

(LATER.)

The fire at Molde was got under control at four o'clock this morning. The damage is estimated at a little over £100,000. Fifty or sixty houses were burnt down, and distress is great, as many of the burnt out people are poor and had not been insured.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

It is now reported that between 120 and 150 houses were burnt at Molde. It is generally believed that the fire was deliberately started, as it broke out at the same time at two different points a long distance apart. King Haakon is leaving for Molde this evening.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

COMING GREAT MEETING IN LONDON.

The Organising Committee for the great meeting at the London Guildhall on the 31st, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, is proceeding actively with the arrangements and a representative attendance is assured. Invitations have been issued to all Lord Mayors and Mayors in the country, associations in London and the provinces, High Commissioners, Agents-General, etc., with the object of focussing on a national basis the views of leading men connected with commercial, industrial, municipal, and public interests. The speakers will include Lord Derby and Lord Desborough.

Resolutions will be proposed expressing appreciation of, and confidence in, the efforts of the British and Allied Forces in the conduct of the war; advocating immediate co-operation between His Majesty's Government, Chambers of Commerce, and other bodies, with the ultimate object of promoting the defence and improvement of trade after the war; urging joint efforts for improving commercial relations between the British Empire and our Allies, so as to ensure that Germany and her allies will not be able again to acquire an undue influence over trade and employment in the British Empire; and, finally, appointing the Lord Mayor's Organising Committee to give all possible effect to the resolutions from time to time.

SAINT MIHIEL SALIENT.

FRENCH LINES VISITED.

THE GERMAN POSITION.

(FROM MR. H. WARNER ALLEN, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE BRITISH PRESS WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES.)

A white line in the hillside below one of the advanced French trenches on the heights of the Meuse in the valley below a ruined village. Charnecourt, in German hands; then the grey stream of the Meuse, the homes of Saint Mihiel half hidden in mist, and beyond another white line of trenches cutting through the plain; a curious wedge of German occupied ground between two solid lines of French trenches. It is the re-entrant of the Germans round Apremont and Namey—the famous names of Saint Mihiel.

From the spectator's point of view this position has the great advantage of being entirely overlooked by the German lines on the banks of the Meuse, and a casual glance is enough to convince the merest novice of the extraordinary defensive power of a salient even under the most unfavourable conditions in the circumstances of modern warfare. The apex of the Saint Mihiel triangle is a large ruined farm called Mont Mousa on the right bank of the river. As this point the opposing lines are only about a hundred yards apart. The whole of the new line from near the river is commanded by the ridge of Les Parroches, on which there is a village which, though there is a considerable ruin, is vigorously on the day of our visit. Charnecourt, on the left bank of the river, is also in ruins, and the whole of its defences are destroyed, and of the French guns posted on the heights above the Meuse, and also in a cross fire from the lines which run from Charnecourt to the east of the river. Yet the enemy has not succeeded in that determined men, with the help of machine guns, can do against almost impregnable positions. The enemy does not possess the artillery preponderance as to justify him in attempting to force the defences by any direct attack. Any preparation for such an attempt would be at once detected by the French artillery observers, and would be shattered by the guns long before the infantry could get to close quarters. The German position is, in fact, the typical one of the defence in modern warfare, and the French attack on the Saint Mihiel salient is the typical one of the attack in modern warfare. The Germans have the advantage in hitting the first blow, but it is the same with the attack as with the defence, as a rule, are far better than the attack. This Teuton characteristic of extraordinary bitterness of attack in the main compelled to receive the first blow they have suffered in the war. The Navy, while it has had its own exploits in showing harmless and ships as highly meritorious and a criticism.

ASPHYXIATING GAS.

The precise nature of the asphyxiating gas in the section under consideration is character. Every man has his mask, and is bound always to have it with him, colored in charge of each company must see he passes in the trenches before and after and wear beside the gas helmet. As a matter of fact, on the heights of Mousa there is no great danger from this form of attack. The men have been carefully trained in the use of the masks, and the German attempts at attack have been successfully met by the French. As soon as the gas is discovered the masks they were ordered to put on, and a test them by going into a trench which had been filled with gas. Some of the men were a little alarmed at the first attack, but went down rather reluctantly, and in a minute or two the discomfort was over, and the masks were perfectly satisfactory. I saw that they spent their time in the trenches in one another and trying to make fun of their respirators.

DESERTERS FROM GERMAN LINES.

Fighting in this district at present is difficult, as the Meuse has flooded the surrounding lands in the valley, and there is only an expanse of marshy ground, over which it is impossible to pass. None the less deserters succeed at some points in the enemy's lines in making their way into the French trenches. Recently some Russian prisoners, who had been being used by the Germans as labourers, and had been employed on works behind the front trenches, were successful in escaping, and, after many adventures and much fatigue, crept through the French barbed wire entanglements. A number of them were killed by the sentries before they were able to convince the French that they were Russians, though before their arrival no one in the trenches had an idea that there were any Russians within hundreds of miles

FROM TO-DAY'S LONDON PAPERS.

THE KAISER'S FEARS.

The writer of "Secret History" in *Reynolds's Newspaper* is responsible for the following story:—

Waldeck Rousseau, the French statesman and politician, died of cancer. His last illness, during one of his most intimate friends, and afterwards, made the following statement as to the progress of the disease and the various operations, and the circumstances which preceded his last moments:—"Ah, well do I know it! I know that I am going to suffer from it. It is the disease from which I have suffered for many years. I know that members of my family have died of it."

WINDFALL FOR AN IRISH-AMERICAN.

Fortune has smiled on Mr. Kirby, once a Dublin magistrate at Glenageary, according to the New York *Lloyd's Weekly News*. Mr. Kirby inherits half a million dollars, left by his brother, who died at Kildare, and who made a fortune in America as coachbuilder to the Vice-Regal Court. Subsequently he became a naturalised citizen of the United States, and is now a farmer in New Jersey. Irish law does not recognise his claim to independence, and, according to the Bible proving his claim to be a citizen of the United States, he is entitled to the whole of the property.

TWO PENDING BY-ELECTIONS.

It is understood that Mr. [illegible] intends to resign his seat for the Exchange Division of Liverpool, with the object of contesting the seat in the Unionist interest. Another by-election will be caused by the death of Mr. Joseph Martin, Member for East St. Pancras, who died on Saturday last after a long illness. Mr. Martin was elected to the House of Commons in 1885, and represented the constituency for the last twenty years.

GERMANY AND 17-INCH NAVAL GUNS.

In an article on the Navy in the Berlin *Tageblatt* the following statement is made:—"We have guns of 17-inch calibre, and we have had them for many years." The writer goes on to say that the Germans have naturally agreed to conceal the fact, but that now, in view of the submarine campaign, they are willing to let the world know that they have a new German gun which can be fired from a seaplane. Reports from the front, however, show that the Germans have been using the new gun for some time past. They have used it in the submarine campaign, and in the attack on the Russian naval experimental station at Libau. The difficulty would appear to be that the gun is too heavy to be carried by a seaplane, and unfort

FROM TO-DAY'S LONDON PAPERS.

THE KAISER'S FEARS.

The writer of "Secret History" in *Reynolds's Newspaper* is responsible for the following story:—

Waldeck Rousseau, the famous French politician, died of cancer. The Kaiser, meeting one of his most intimate friends shortly afterwards, made the most minute inquiries as to the progress of the disease, the numerous operations, and the agony of the deceased's last moments. He then remarked: "Ah, well do I know it is a terrible malady to suffer from. It is the same fell disease that members of my family are dying of."

WINDFALL FOR AN IRISH-AMERICAN.

Fortune has smiled upon Frederick Philip Kirby, once a British drummer boy, now a magistrate at Gloster, New Jersey, who has, according to the New York correspondent of *Lloyd's Weekly News*, been notified that he inherits half a million from Marie-Fay, who died at Kildare in July. Kirby came to America as ashman to the Marquis of Lorne. Subsequently he became a breeder of dogs, and is now a farmer at Woodbury, New Jersey. Irish lawyers here are convinced that his claim is indisputable. Kirby has a family Bible proving his identity.

TWO PENDING BY-ELECTIONS.

It is understood, says *Reynolds's Newspaper*, that Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., the member for the East Toxeth Division of Liverpool, will shortly tender his resignation. Another by-election is also probable in East St. Pancras, at present represented by Mr. Joseph Martin, who has been in Canada for the last year.

GERMANY AND 17-INCH NAVAL GUNS.

In an article touching the controversy regarding the possession by the Germans of 17-inch naval guns, the *Weekly Dispatch* says—We have the highest authority for stating that Mr. James Douglas's article in the *Daily News* is perfectly true, and that the facts have been known to the authorities for many weeks. Our contemporary says naturally the wild fears of "experts" have agreed to cast ridicule upon the stories of this new German naval weapon. These "authorities" are similar in type to those who rejected the submarine when it was first invented, the aeroplane, the aeroplane, and nearly every new and important weapon of attack. The latest naval experts have agreed to argue that the difficulty with the 17-inch guns is that you cannot see the object at which you are aiming if you utilise the great carrying power of the gun in naval warfare. But it is obviously true that if a German Fleet, armed with 17-inch guns, were to attack Dover they could stay three miles outside the range of our heaviest guns, and pour shells by the score on a town that, out-ranged, would be defenceless.

SIR HIRAM MAXIM'S OPINION.

A *Weekly Dispatch* representative put the case of Germany's alleged possession of 17-inch naval guns before the world-famous inventor of guns, Sir Hiram Maxim, who did not see any cause for alarm. "We have already been successful in England," he said, "in handling 15-inch naval guns of very high power and range. Now the Germans are reported to have made equally successful naval guns of 17-inch bore. There is no doubt that if 17-inch guns should be required by the British Navy there would be at least two places in England where they could be made. But it is not altogether a question of very long range guns. There has been much talk about a range of twenty miles. But it must be remembered that the ships from which are fired are always in motion, and that we have practically reached the limit of accurate long-distance firing in naval warfare. It is quite possible that a gun might be made to fire twenty miles, but it would be quite impossible to hit anything less than a mile square at that distance in a naval fight. Guns firing a shell this distance at sea from a ship might be a target of this size only once in ten times, but that is all. It is altogether a different matter when a gun is fixed on shore. In that case, and with the advice of the Allied Powers regarding the Monarchy. The Government was confident that the wisdom of Yuan Shi-kai would further regrettable disturbances in the interior.

NISH MYSTERY.

A *Weekly Dispatch* cable, dated Athens, Saturday, says,—The news of the visit of the Kaiser to Nish and the making of Ferdinand a Prussian Field-Marshal a month ago, has just been published here. The news is no sort of gain to the German cause. It was known that Ferdinand cordially hated Greece. Xavier Paolia was present at the Nish meeting.

SHOCKING CONDITION OF GERMAN LINES.

The fighting season is now at its height on the Western front and the Allies and Germans are both making great efforts to take each other by surprise, telegraphs the Rotterdam correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch*. Describing the Ypres salient, the most deadly spot in the whole area, the enemy has been particularly active. Reports from the frontier show that the condition of the German lines on the Yser front is daily becoming worse owing to the rising floods. If it were possible for an attack to be pressed home, the Germans would find little resistance, but unfortunately for them nothing less amphibious than a seal could make progress through the mud and water.

TYPHUS IN SERBIA.

The Athens correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch* says—The latest news received there from Smyrna is that the city is denuded of troops, and the Turks are nervous. There are many reports of a spread of typhus in Serbia among the Bulgars and the Germans.

FERTILISERS FOR FARMERS.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed Sir James J. H. W. Mann, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., and Mr. J. R. Campbell, B.Sc., of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, additional members of the Departmental committee, which is making arrangements with a view to the maintenance, so far as is possible, of adequate supplies of fertilisers for the use of farmers of the United Kingdom. Mr. H. Chambers has been appointed Secretary to the Committee, vice Mr. H. D. Vigor resigned.

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MILITARY STORES.

In the Southern Police Court on Saturday, before Mr. Swifte, K.C., Mary Cripps, who was stated to be a resident at 45 Charlemont street, Dublin, was charged on remand with the illegal possession of military stores, including overcoats, capes, jackets, drawers, shirts, socks, blankets, motor gloves, kit bags, tins of emergency rations, caps, belts, etc. Constable Barton, 37 B, gave evidence of finding the property at the prisoner's residence, and a military officer identified the articles as the property of the Secretary for War. The defendant pleaded guilty. She was ordered to pay a fine of £5, and the stores were returned to the military.

LATEST NEWS.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE DABROVA.

ANOTHER BLACK SEA RAID.

FORTY SHIPS DESTROYED.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* to-night says:—Western front.—In the Tzumenfeld region the Germans shelled our trenches with gas bombs. North of Czartoryak the enemy made repeated, but vain, attempts to recapture the hill occupied by us. In Galicia, on the middle Strypa front, we repulsed attempts by the enemy to approach our trenches. On the lower Strypa, as well as on the Dniester, we attacked the enemy, who was holding a hill north-east of Ivalowice and the village of Dabrova, south-east of Latacz. The village of Dabrova has already been carried by us. North-east of Czernowitz the enemy exploded four mines near our trenches. A desperate fight ensued near the craters.

Black Sea.—Our torpedo boat destroyers yesterday destroyed forty sailing ships near the Anatolian coast.

CAUCAUS.

TURKS IN FLIGHT.

BIG CAPTURES OF MEN AND ARMS.

ERZERUM FORTS BOMBARDED.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

The following official *communiqué* was issued here to-day:—

Caucasus front—The pursuit of the centre of the Turkish Army which is retreating precipitately from the region of Lake Tortum continues. We are capturing prisoners, arms, cartridges, munitions, and stores of all kinds. The Cossacks charged the Turkish rearguard near the Erzerum forts, sabred several hundred Turks, and captured over a thousand Asiatics. The remainder of the rearguard fled into Erzerum. Our artillery bombarded the Erzerum forts.

BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

Lloyd's states the British steamer Trematon has been sunk. Crew landed.

The Trematon was a new steamer built at South Shields in 1916 for the Hain Steamship Company, St. Ives, Cornwall, and was of 4,198 gross tonnage.

REPORTED BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE GOODS.

STATEMENT BY JAPANESE MINISTER.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

TOKIO, JAN. 21.

In the Upper House of the Diet to-day Baron Den asked the Government for information regarding the widespread reports appearing in the newspapers that British subjects in China were instigating a Chinese boycott of Japanese goods. He said the reports were creating a sentiment antagonistic to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Baron Ishii, Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying, said that such reports were incredible. The good understanding prevailing between the British and Japanese Governments afforded ample security against mischief. Such overt reports were directed against a valued alliance. Baron Ishii, further interrogated, said Japan hoped and believed that the Chinese Government would accept the advice of the Allied Powers regarding the Monarchy. The Government was confident that the wisdom of Yuan Shi-kai would further regrettable disturbances in the interior.

APOLLO'S CREW LANDED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

FLUSHING, SATURDAY.

The Princess Juliana has arrived here with the captain and fifteen men of the crew of the steamer Apollo of the Royal Dutch Steamship Company, which was sunk yesterday evening near the Galloper Lightship. The mate and two sailors were drowned.

GRAND DUKE GEORGE IN TOKIO.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

TOKIO, SATURDAY.

The Grand Duke George Michaelovitch left the capital this morning after a continuous round of entertainments. The Japanese newspapers say that the visit has materially advanced the prestige of Russia among all classes in Japan. The Emperor and the Grand Duke exchanged visits yesterday. Prince Kanin and other Princes, Count Okuma, the Premier, and the members of the Cabinet were present at the station to bid His Imperial Highness farewell.

MURDER AND ROBBERY BANDIT HOLDS UP CHICAGO OFFICE.

A sensational outrage has taken place at Chicago, telegraphs the New York correspondent of *Lloyd's News* on Saturday, where an armed bandit, after dangerously wounding Mr. Walsh, the cashier at Messrs. Cook's Tourist Office, and murdering a policeman, succeeded in escaping with a sum of £200. The bandit arrived in a motor car with a blonde woman, who waited in the automobile while he entered the office. The cashier was at the moment counting up his money. The bandit held up the whole staff, and then shot the cashier as he reached for a revolver.

RELIEF FOR BELGIANS.

The National Committee for Relief in Belgium has to date collected over £1,325,000, and of that amount £1,400,000 has been expended in food to keep from starvation over 3,000,000 Belgians in Belgium, whom the Germans refuse to feed. The total of the Christmas Day collection to date is £12,700, and a great many towns and districts have not yet remitted to headquarters the sums collected.

LIABILITY AND DUTY.

A healthy-looking young Irishman asked Mr. Chester Jones at Lambeth on Saturday to sign one of the now familiar green forms.

A gentleman who attended to support the application said the lad had only recently come over from Ireland, and was not liable to enlistment.

Mr. Chester Jones—He is not liable! You are quite right. I shan't assist him to go out of the country. It is his duty to join.

SWEDEN AND WOOD PULP.

STOCKHOLM TRADERS ALARMED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STOCKHOLM, FRIDAY.

Owing to the statement made in British technical papers that Swedish paper manufacturers were procuring goods from England in greater quantities than they needed for their own use in order to export part to Germany, a number of managers of Swedish paper factories passed resolutions at two different meetings denying the charge. It was declared that no Swedish paper factory had been guilty, so far as these managers knew, of such a violation of Swedish neutrality.

COPHENHAGEN, SATURDAY.

Telegrams from Stockholm describe the feeling among wood pulp manufacturers as being extremely anxious. They talk of the prohibition of the export of wood pulp as a death blow to their industry. The Swedish Minister of Finance, in an interview, declared that their fears are unfounded, as the Swedish Government will do everything in its power to maintain the wood pulp industry by granting special export licences wherever possible. The prohibition, continued the Minister, must be regarded solely as a means in the hands of the Government to obtain the necessary goods from abroad.

SOUTH AFRICANS AT ALEXANDRIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ALEXANDRIA, FRIDAY.

Reuter's correspondent visited the South Africans' camp, which is on the banks of a lake, a hilly, healthy, sandy spot, reminiscent of South-West Africa. He was told that all the men were fit and well after their fifteen days' voyage. The South Africans had no official reception here. All are as hard as nails, but are still training actively. They are simply itching to be off and doing. They are much disappointed at not being allowed to go to France, but they recognise the climate of Egypt is more favourable to them, and will feel more in their element here. The majority have already campaigned in South-West Africa. All are resolved to uphold the best traditions of South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICANS AND BEARER WARRANTS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

JOHANNESBURG, FRIDAY.

At the Stock Exchange to-day the Chairman addressed the members with reference to bearer warrants, of which it appears a good many have fallen into the enemy's hands in Northern France and Belgium. Attempts, it is stated, are being made to convert these bearer warrants at various transfer offices in London. The Chairman recommended that the greatest care should be exercised, and warned the brokers against wilfully assisting to pass unauthorised warrants.

CHINESE REVOLUTIONARIES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PETROGRAD, FRIDAY.

A telegram from Mukden says:—By order from Peking two divisions will be detached from the Manchu troops in order to be sent to Yunnan, the people of which province sympathise with the revolutionary movement. Prince Tush Tu is directing the revolution in Inner Mongolia. The rebels are making progress in three directions—Kwei Hwa, Cheng Tsing Ping, and Sam Su Lung—with detachments of over 1,000 men each. They are destroying all Chinese villages on the line of march.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR FROM JAMAICA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

KINGSTON (JAMAICA), SATURDAY.

The Governor has issued a proclamation prohibiting the exportation of sugar from Jamaica to destinations other than the United Kingdom and British possessions and protectorates. The third war measure is being rapidly formed, and recruiting is proceeding successfully throughout the island.

COMMISSIONS IN HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY.

Royal Military Academy, Woolwich; Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and a Training College in India.

The Army Council have decided that as from the Army entrance examination to be held in June next a candidate's age must be such that he will have attained the age of 17 for Woolwich or 17½ for Sandhurst, or a Training College in India, on the dates specified in the provisional regulations respecting admission to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

SISTERS' FATAL DELUSIONS.

YOUNG WOMAN CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Mathilda Feroix Curtis (35), daughter of a banker's clerk, formerly living in a bungalow at Stonehill, near Borden, Hants, who is alleged to have murdered her sister by inflicting a terrible wound in her throat with a table knife at 5 Finchley road, St. John's Wood, on 8th January, again appeared before Mr. Paul Taylor at Marylebone Police Court, London, on Saturday. She looked very depressed, and two wardresses were in attendance on her. A pathetic story was told at the inquest on the deceased girl, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned against the accused. It seemed that the two sisters had been devoted to each other, but had had delusions that they were spies, and that they were surrounded by spies. They imagined that the Germans had set up a wireless station on the roof of the bungalow, and that gases came through the floor. They were brought to Finchley with a view to being medically examined, and the tragedy occurred on the very day they were to have seen a brain specialist. The deceased girl at lunch whispered to her aunt that she was going to be murdered. The Grayshott tragedy seemed to have unnerved them both, and there was evidence of insanity, the sisters having concerted together for the commission of the fatal act. The accused was committed for trial.

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK.

Sir Stanley Harrington presided at the sixtieth ordinary general meeting of the Munster and Leinster Bank, held on Saturday in Cork. He announced that the profits for the half-year were £33,890, with £15,000 forward, making in all £48,923; reserves and depreciation, £20,000; carried forward, £15,923. A dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum was declared. The Chairman said that the accounts showed that investments grew from £1,766,967 to £2,440,578. £1,000,000 had been subscribed to the War Loan.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS CURRAN.

The late Mr. Thomas Curran, formerly Nationalist M.P. for South Sligo, left property valued at over £36,000. The will provides that should his son or daughter marry a person not a member of the Catholic or Apostolic Church he or she is to forfeit all interest under the will. In the event of the failure of all trusts in favour of his son or daughter the ultimate residue is left to the Pope for missionary work in the South Pacific Islands.

BIG STEAMER ON GOODWIN SANDS.

The steamer, City of York, of 7,854 gross tonnage, of Glasgow, bound for London, with a general cargo of an estimated value of half-a-million sterling, went ashore on Saturday morning at Fork Spit, Goodwin Sands. She had 49 passengers on board, who were also bound for London. The captain accepted the assistance of the Dual lifeboat, and, with considerable difficulty, the vessel was refloated shortly before noon, and proceeded to London.

DUTCH STEAMER SUNK.

THREE LIVES LOST.

Lloyd's report that the Dutch steamer Apollo has been sunk. Three lives have been lost and many men have been injured. The survivors have been picked up by the Dutch steamer Princess Juliana.

SUSPICIOUS FIRE ON A NORWEGIAN STEAMER.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

NEW YORK, SATURDAY.

Another unexplained fire on board ship has caused the return to port of the Norwegian cargo steamer Synga, bound for Archangel, with a cargo of railway material. The steamer has been partially unloaded and the fire extinguished.

ABANDONED NORWEGIAN BARQUE

The captain of a British steamer which has arrived at Liverpool from Galveston reports on January 13, sighting in latitude 44.23 north, longitude 44.34 west, the Norwegian barquentine Ragnvald, of Kragero, abandoned. The fore and main lower masts were standing, and the mizzen mast was intact. The hatches and decks were awash. The vessel was apparently timber-laden.

MISSING HULL STEAMER FOUND.

Messrs. Wilson, Sons, and Co., Hull, on Saturday announced that they had received news from their Archangel agents stating that the s.s. Sappho has now been located. Fast in the ice. Owing to the heavy state of the ice, the icebreaker has not able to get within a mile of the ship. Mr. Ashford, second officer, and two seamen, Hasslica and Stork, have been landed. Search is being made for Captain Martin and others of the crew.

DEPRECIATION OF THE GERMAN MARK.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

COPENHAGEN, SATURDAY.

To-day's official rate for sight exchange on Germany per 100 kroner was 66.00 kroner, against 68.15 yesterday, and 89 kroner normally.

STOCKHOLM, SATURDAY.

To-day's official rate for sight exchanges per 100 marks was 67.90 kroner, against 67.90 kroner yesterday, and 89 normally. That on Austria was 46.00 kroner, against 46.25 on Thursday, and 75.50 normally.

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

To-day's official rate for sight exchange on Germany was 41.75 guilders per 100 marks, against 41.87½ guilders yesterday and 59.25 normally. That on London was 10.80 guilders for £1, against 10.78½ guilders yesterday and 12.10 guilders normally.

CHRISTIANIA, SATURDAY.

To-day's official rate for sight exchange on Germany per 100 marks was 68.50 kroner, against 68.75 yesterday and 89 normally.

MARKET REPORTS.

Grain.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, January 22.—Forward wheat is 1/6 dearer on the week; English firm at last Saturday's rates. Barley 1/6 to 2/ dearer on the week. Wheat, Northern Spring, 6/3 to 6/6; Red Winter, 6/1 to 6/4; Manitoba, 6/6 to 6/9; English, 6/3 to 6/6. Barley, 5/6 to 5/9. Oats, 5/3 to 5/6. Flour, 25/- to 30/- per sack.

CARLISLE CORN MARKET, January 22.—There was a small supply of grain at the Carlisle Corn Market to-day, but a slight advance was recorded, the principal being from 12/- to 12/3 per three imperial bushels.

Cattle.

DONCASTER CATTLE MARKET, January 22.—A light supply of cattle was penned here to-day, but though prices were firm to a shade dearer in places, sales were slow. Best beasts, £38 to £42; seconds, £35 to £37 10s.; inferior, £30 to £32; best heifers, £36 to £37; seconds, £33 to £35; inferior, £30 to £32; best cows, £34 to £36; seconds, £30 to £33; inferior, £25 to £28; best bulls, £34 to £36; seconds, £30 to £33; inferior, £25 to £28. No trade for sheep, and only a few inquiry for pigs, young pigs, 13s. to 13s. 6d. per score.

Provisions.

DUBLIN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, January 22.—Our market was very quiet to-day, and, owing to the presence of unsaleable vegetables, the demand, nevertheless, appeared to be greater than it was, as buyers were ready to pay more for the choice at the following quotations:—Cabbage, 1s. to 2s. per dozen; carrots, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt.; onions, 12s. to 15s. per cwt.; parsnips, 1s. to 2s. per dozen; turnips, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt.; beetroot, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per dozen; celery, 1s. to 2s. per bundle; leeks, 1s. to 2s. per dozen bundles; mushrooms, 1s. per pound; tomatoes, 2s. to 2s. 6d. per pound; lettuce, 1s. per dozen; cucumbers, 2s. to 2s. 6d. per dozen; white turnips, 1s. per dozen bunches; red cabbage, 1s. per dozen; spring cabbage, 1s. per dozen; parsley, 1s. per dozen bunches; artichokes, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per dozen; peas, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pint; beans, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pint; apples, 1s. to 2s. per dozen; pears, 1s. to 2s. per dozen; bananas, 1s. per dozen; oranges, 1s. to 2s. per dozen; lemons, 1s. per dozen; grapes, 1s. per pound; Spanish onions, 1s. per pound; Valencia onions, 1s. per pound; Jaffa oranges, 1s. per dozen; Tangerine oranges, 1s. per dozen; Messina lemons, 1s. per dozen; Almeria grapes, 1s. per pound; Canary grapes, 1s. per pound; Malaga grapes, 1s. per pound; Alexandria grapes, 1s. per pound; Cyprus grapes, 1s. per pound; Cyprus potatoes, 1s. per pound; Spanish potatoes, 1s. per pound; Canary potatoes, 1s. per pound; Jersey potatoes, 1s. per pound; Guernsey potatoes, 1s. per pound; Egyptian potatoes, 1s. per pound; Egyptian onions, 1s. per pound; Egyptian beetroot, 1s. per pound; Egyptian turnips, 1s. per pound; Egyptian carrots, 1s. per pound; Egyptian parsnips, 1s. per pound; Egyptian leeks, 1s. per pound; Egyptian celery, 1s. per pound; Egyptian tomatoes, 1s. per pound; Egyptian cucumbers, 1s. per pound; Egyptian lettuce, 1s. per pound; Egyptian peas, 1s. per pound; Egyptian beans, 1s. per pound; Egyptian apples, 1s. per pound; Egyptian pears, 1s. per pound; Egyptian bananas, 1s. per pound; Egyptian oranges, 1s. per pound; Egyptian lemons, 1s. per pound; Egyptian grap

ENEMY'S POINT OF VIEW.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.)

Use of the Cheque.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, Germany's leading financial and commercial organ, says that few Germans realise this, and that business firms are as much to blame as private persons. It says that everybody knows that each family and each business house keeps far more money in hand than it should do, and it refuses to listen to the argument that money must be kept ready to pay bills. It shows that the payment of bills with actual money is not a necessity, and declares that it is the duty of every person who has a few hundred marks to open a banking account. All persons who are averse to paying the cheque-stamp can, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* points out, open an account at the Post Office, which has a very convenient and most successful banking department.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* declares that especially in business life unnecessarily large balances in coin and notes are maintained, and it is convinced that a German bank cashier or the cashier of a large firm has always in hand ten times more money than his English colleague. In the official world, and especially in the case of the military authorities, the proportion, it says, is often enough 100 to one. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* urges, therefore, all banks, all industrial and commercial firms, and the cashiers of all Government departments and municipalities to examine their stock of coin and notes each night, and to send as much as they possibly can, without any delay, regularly to the Reichsbank. "If this is done," it says in conclusion, "and if the general public also takes the advice given to it, the Reichsbank will be able to reduce very considerably the number of notes in circulation, the relation between the latter and the gold in the Reichsbank will steadily improve, and we shall be able to show foreigners much more clearly than we have been able to do heretofore the strength of the German financial system."

Inevitable Questions.

From a correspondent in [illegible] German town the *Frankfu[illegible]* publishes a letter which reveals the mind of the German thoughts. The correspondent relates that during the Christmas holidays he unexpectedly met a friend who is now an officer in the army. After a brief exchange of greetings the officer, he adds, took from his pocket a printed form and said: "Read that before you ask any questions." The correspondent reports that what he read was as follows:

"I am wearing the uniform of the —th Cavalry Regiment.

"2. I have come unwounded from the front at N.

"3. I am on leave until. . . .

"4. I do not believe there will be a further great advance in the East.

"5. I cannot tell, and even Hindenburg knows no more on this point than I do, when peace will be proclaimed."

Prediction of a Peace Advocate.

Dr. Alfred H. Fried, the well-known Austrian peace advocate and winner of the Nobel Prize, contributes an article to the *New Zurcher Zeitung*, in the course of which, after referring to the many surprises which the conduct of the war has already brought, he argues that all the dreams of marches to Berlin and Vienna or to Paris and London, strategic blows at the heart of the enemy, complete destruction of her armies, and the dictation of peace on these grounds, have passed. "One sees that these methods of the good old time in Europe are no longer practicable. Surely it is by no chance that the war is pressing constantly further out the circumference of the earth. Instead of to Berlin, Vienna, London, or Paris it pushes forward now to Salonika, Constantinople, Bagdad, and Cairo. The military watchword is that the fate of the countries outside of Europe would be decided in Europe appears now to be reversed. One hopes to decide the fate of Europe in Asia and Africa. There can be no victor in Europe any more, because none of the combatants can be completely vanquished. So long as one side strives after a complete victory over the other the goal perceived retreats like a Will o' the wisp. Therefore, in this psychological hour must come the cry for peace from all those who have kept their powers of judgment clear. There must be no "German," no "English" peace, but a European. Any other peace would not deserve the name. It would be only an armistice. Then the neutral Powers must free themselves from the other watchword that German militarism must be first destroyed before the war is ended. That is a delusion based upon a false judgment of new things."

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A Hymn—And a Vision.

The departure of the first "Balkan" train from Berlin has naturally aroused the greatest enthusiasm of the German Press. The *Tageblatt* breaks out in a hymn of delight to the genius of German military and diplomatic leaders, and in explaining the economic importance of the event, unfolds the following vision:—"The northern head of the train has opened road—a world road in the truest sense of the word—sends out its rays to the Channel and the Baltic, forces trade and traffic into its path without being disturbed by the enemy, and aims at the heart of the British lion, which thought of winning the war only with gold, and is now compelled to have recourse to blood also. The southern feeler already reaches the ancient seats of civilisation of the Two-Stream Land, and points with menacing warning to Egypt and India, the two corner-stones of the British might. Land has won over the sea. At the time when the British fleet is hiding in a corner and the British mercantile marine is losing more and more its ships, the Balkan Train, adorned with five victorious flags, rolls without let or hindrance across open countries, fearing no war dangers."

A "Ruling Race" in Khaki.

The *Kölnische Zeitung* publishes some further descriptions (sent from the Italian frontier) of the Allies' front around Salonika. A ring of entrenchments, it says, has been constructed in a radius of from twenty to forty miles around Salonika and work is being pushed forward with great energy at the outermost edge of this bulwark, about twelve miles from the frontier. In fact, Salonika has been, raised to the rank of a first-class European fortress, and it is improbable that any army could attack it at all successfully. German airmen are constantly dropping bombs on the men at work on the fortifications, but without stopping its progress. On the frontier there are about 200,000 Bulgarians between Doiran and Gheyghell; very few German troops are there, with the exception of artillery. In Xanthi there are two Turkish divisions.

In the *Berliner Tageblatt* Herr Emil Ludwig reappears to pay the British troops in Salonika some very fine compliments. He says they are the masters of the town, and give that perfect impression of a ruling nation which is quite at home in any foreign land, without any right there, without any knowledge of the language; a nation which knows how to command. Herr Ludwig is convinced by the sight of these "fine thoroughbred Englishmen" that a nation ought not to be despised because it knows how to make others work for it. For is it not an art to be able to play the flute? The immaculateness of their equipment, the nobility of their bearing, their wealth and dignity tempted me more to reflect on the history of civilisation and the part to be played by one nation than to indulge in the cheap mockery which prevails in our gutters at home."

Salonika.

In his latest article on the military situation General von Bülume discusses the withdrawal from Gallipoli, and then adopts a very sarcastic tone about the Salonika undertaking. He says:—

"We could have understood it if our enemies had taken the favourable opportunity to escape from Gallipoli which was given by the plight of the Serbs, and if, transferring with all possible speed all their available forces they had gone to the help of the Serbs in due time. Instead of this they have lost precious weeks in Gallipoli, and are now establishing themselves behind trenches and defences at Salonika, just as they did in Gallipoli. The purpose is not clear to us, and probably is not clear to them, for it seems that nobody is at present threatening to attack them, while it will hardly seem advisable to them to assume the offensive, especially as they have no prospect of foreign help. If their only purpose was to make thoroughly clear to the world what they mean by the freedom of peoples, international law, protection of weak States, and the ideals generally for which they pretend to be fighting, they have already so thoroughly achieved this purpose that they could leave Salonika with just as much satisfaction as they have left Gallipoli. Poor Greece would certainly be grateful."

OUR RUSSIAN ALLIES.

THEIR UNYIELDING SPIRIT.

(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED.)

"The Russians" are the subject of an article by M. René Bazin in a recent number of the *Echo de Paris*. The following is a translation thereof:—

We know too little of our Russian Allies. The telegrams inform us that they have made headway or have withdrawn—just now they are advancing; that they have escaped from the nippers and pinchers that were bound to close upon them; that they are fighting splendidly; that behind them is their whole nation—great lords, merchants, officials, peasants, fishers of endless rivers, horsemen of the southern plains, Siberians, men of wandering tribes, of towns and of woods. It may well be said that behind them also are all the French people, who love them, who are troubled or rejoice with them; who at times come up with one another in the villages saying "Our Russian friends have the trick!" and whose gaze, often, when they are drinking together, is turned towards the picture still hanging upon the wall—you remember!—the poop of a warship, a tent adorned with flags, the long barrels of guns which watch above, and the President and the Emperor who bear the famous toasts. But this is not enough. We who see our children in the fight, should wish also to see our friends, and to suffer with them, and cry to them: Thanks! For the cause is the same; and everyone knows it, in this family of peoples who struggle for goods greater than the soil, greater than trade, greater even than peace itself. Well, they are hidden from us by the distance, are our Russian Allies. Could not we be given more news of them and more of their mind? If the roundabout way by which the letter-bags and newspapers have to come is rather long, they end by reaching us. Why not publish living stories of battles that are fought in Russia, as well at at home, for the whole of Europe and for each one of us? I speak to the Government offices, whence come to us, sometimes, sober pictures, moving and clear, of the actions fought in our lines. I speak as well to Russian writers. The strategic bond is the first of all, but the act of upholding our sympathies is not of less importance.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

While waiting for this new year's wish to be fulfilled I have read the "Letters of Russian Soldiers" published by G. Montvert, through the firm of Payot. They are too few in number; some are not worthy of translation; at best they are little more than telegrams, and of a formal nature. Let us open the book. Most of the letters are borrowed from the Russian newspapers, and dated about the end of 1914 or the beginning of 1915; that is to say, a time in which our Allies were fighting in hostile territory. The correspondents are officers, private soldiers, or non-commissioned officers of infantry or Cossack regiments. One of them recounts the preparations for a fight: all the men of the battery have been called together; "I go towards the front. I open a map, and I begin to explain to them the mission that is entrusted to us. I observe joyfully that the soldiers do not experience a shadow of uneasiness, but seem only busy and mindful of their importance. From time to time a few draw near the guns and wipe something, as if they were caressing a faithful friend for the last time." A valuable remark which reveals a kindred spirit between the disciplines of the two armies. Another officer said of his first months of fighting in the Army Corps: "All this affects me like holidays that I do not enjoy." Another who fought and who was afterwards killed writes: "I have become accustomed to doing without pillows and blankets. We sleep in the captured trenches during the day, and strengthen them during the night. And in the morning—forward! I feel like myself in the fighting. I have only one pleasure: as soon as we lay on, that dirty crowd (the enemy) begin to run." Another entered a castle belonging to a near relative of the Emperor William II.:—"It is certain we do not behave ourselves like the German lieutenants; on the contrary, in visiting the castle, we admired, without touching anything. But we could not resist the temptation to wear clean linen belonging to a relative of William." A soldier received from an unknown godmother at the end of 1914 a letter and a little present—a pocket handkerchief, some tobacco, a box of matches, and a pipe. He answered: "I write to my godlike sister-in Jesus Christ, Anna Andreevna, my warmest wishes for the coming festivities of Christmas and the New Year. . . Although I am no smoker, I inhale with unspeakable pleasure this smoke, which, like a good glass of cognac, reanimates my limbs chilled by the damp weather, and I warm my hands with the pipe. . . . I send to you a prayer which I beg of you to hear: grant me the boon of an answer, and write to me if you are a young girl of pitiful heart, or even a little lady. I beseech you, write to me; a letter is precious; it is the only distraction during the war. Thank your parents for having made you so compassionate." Would you not say it was some French person?

THE SPIRIT OF FATALISM.

A commander, wounded, under treatment in the Kieff Hospital, tries to define the spirit of the soldiers whom he has led into action: "I think of that opinion of war correspondents, far from the Russian soldier remains an enigmatical sphinx. He who has lived side by side with the soldier, who has eaten, drunk, and slept along with him, who, every day, has heard his words, his thoughts, and his debates, knows that the foolhardy type is not common. The strongest, the most striking feature of his psychology is a fatalism strong and well-poised. Our soldier does not really know fear, and certainly he will not stop to think where there is less danger—right flank, left flank, in the firing-line or behind. For him it is the same everywhere. Danger is there where the Lord has wished to place it. And the spirit of fatalism, which rises from the greyish ranks of all these peasants of the Don, of the Volga, of Perm, forms little by little a unique and universal atmosphere of resolute and universal faith. It imprints upon them a mark of deep tranquillity, of balance and equilibrium. . . . It is impossible to make these men flinch, or to make them give up their convictions. Their faith is steady and strong before all else. . . . Their soul is like their step, easy and firm." That is a strange view. Is it complete? Is it high enough, and is not the reality lower? I have not the right to speak out, being ignorant of the Russian people. But here is the opening of a letter written by the son of a serving-man, who has worked as a copying-clerk in an office, and who is now quartermaster-sergeant in one of the regiments most highly thought of in the Russian Army:—"My dear Senia, you write that it seems to you impossible, not being a soldier, to bear these hardships and this terror. I underline 'not being a soldier' because a soldier who has before him a fixed object allows himself to be stopped by nothing, and lays all upon the card—life and youth. This object is very noble—to defend father and mother, brothers and sisters, the Emperor and the fatherland. . . Is it not a grand object for which none would regret either his life or his youth? War calls for victims, and all these victims resign themselves to the Creator's will. Is it possible that a Russian warrior's heart rest impassive in presence of a brave comrade's death? No, Senia, his heart will be moved, but the battle-field is not a place to mourn those near to you, or to play the sentimental; that is the concern of those beyond, in distant Russia, of our mothers and sisters, whose tears will bedew our bones."

A SIMPLE STORY.

Pretty stories are not wanting in the book.

AT EASTER ISLAND.

ECHO OF VON SPEE'S FLEET.

SCIENTISTS' SOUTH SEA ADVENTURES.

The two English archæologists and scientists, Mr. and Mrs. W. Scoresby Routledge, who, as representatives of the British Museum, left Southampton three years ago on an archæological expedition to Easter Island, in the South Sea, have just reached San Francisco on their return home.

During their stay at Easter Island the German squadron, under the command of Admiral von Spee appeared, and the commerce raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich used the island as a supply base.

Mr. and Mrs. Routledge left Southampton in the 90-foot schooner-yacht Mana on February 28, 1913, and reached Easter Island on March 29, 1914. In May the Mana was sent to Talcahuano, the scientists remaining on Easter Island busy with their archæological work.

The 250 Polynesians on the island revolted through an old woman having a vision that the island had been stolen from the old dwellers by the Chilian Government, represented by the sole European on the island, Mr. Edmunds, an Englishman. The natives killed hundreds of the Chilian ranch cattle, and drove the Chilian representative and the Mentiste to the end of the island. Just as the natives were preparing to murder Edmunds a Chilian warship arrived. The ringleaders were arrested, and the chief was deported to Chile where he died.

RUMOURS OF WAR.

The archæologists then continued their researches among giant monoliths, mysteriously made generations ago and transported by methods unknown 15 miles from the quarries without the slightest damage. The studies proceeded until the advent of the German squadron, doomed soon to interfere like the guns of the avenging British. The Scharnhorst flew the flag of Admiral von Spee, and was accompanied by three men of war and ten captured vessels. Because of his archæological work, and his desire not to let the Kaiser's men know about it, Mr. Routledge remained away from them. No news of the European war had reached Easter Island.

"Immense stores of meat were bought by the Germans from the Chilian ranch," said Mrs. Routledge to a correspondent in San Francisco. "They said nothing directly of the war, but after five days rumours began to leak out. They told us that Australia and New Zealand were republics, and that King George was deposed and a republic was formed in Britain! Canada was placed similarly, and India was in flames! German men-of-war had penetrated up the Thames to Chatham and had sunk several British battleships in the river!

"Fantastic as these rumours were, it was our belief that they were not spread out of pure ignorance, but carefully laid plans, built by small accretions in long periods of ignorance of the truth. The German fleet and its prize vessels remained at Easter Island six days.

"The Jean lay off the island for a week," said Mrs. Routledge, "whilst the Prinz Eithel Friedrich, violating neutrality, proceeded to transfer the French coal to her bunkers. The barque was somewhat deep in the coal she already had on board when she was towed out to sea. To add to our annoyance, the Germans sent ashore an armed force of men under an officer with secret orders, we gathered, to give news to the commander of the Eitel should any British ships appear around the corner."

FRENCH BARQUE SUNK.

Describing how the Jean was sunk, Mrs. Routledge said: "Like a bird of prey the Prinz Eitel circled about the Jean, while shells spat at her. The Prinz missed, she circled about again and fired and all this time the Jean, light, with no cargo, was rolling heavily in the seas. Mr. Edmunds, sailing master Captain Gillam, and myself set positive that a boat less than a mile and a half off shore when the Eitel began firing, and the barque drifted to within a half mile of the shore when she sank. And this was another breach of violation."

Mrs. Routledge climbed the hill one day to see the signal station erected by the Germans. "They do not like to see you here," a native said to her; and she complied, "I like still less to see them here."

"The Eitel men," added Mrs. Routledge "said they had stores enough for four months to the end of April, 1915. Easter Island was an excellent base for them; there was meat in abundance; they could be on the watch for hostile vessels, and could get some tobacco, a box of matches, and a pipe. The crews of the Jean and Kidalton were left at Easter Island by the German when he sailed, and there they remained, lamenting their misfortune and their inability to get home. But the Norwegian steamer Nordic called on February 26, and took off the French and English sailors.

"The harrowed feeling we had was in the middle of March, when the Mana was returning from Chile with Mr. Routledge aboard. The Dresden was prowling about near Talcahuano. Mr. Routledge decided to sail in the afternoon. The Dresden, not to be destroyed at Juan Fernandes, had that morning captured a coal ship, and was so busy that the Mapa wriggled by and got safely away."

From Easter Island the Mana sailed on August 18 1915, after 16 months' research. At Pitcairn Island they shipped two brothers, Edwin and Charles Young, descendants of Midshipman Young, of the Bounty, and they are aboard her to-day, anxious to fight for England in the war, as are all the crew manning the Mana.

There are some extraordinary ones, like that in which a horse-soldier, five times decorated, tells how fifty volunteers and three officers surprised in the marshes and cut into pieces three squadrons of cavalry and two companies of infantry. I cannot quote them all, nor even point out the colour or the plan of them. But there is one, so touching, and of such simple grandeur, that it must be set forth and given to all like food. It has been copied into an officer's note-book: "Late at night, we reach an important station where the line has been destroyed by the Germans who have just withdrawn. We pass the night in the rails of my carriage. Wearing my great-coat, I go out. It is cold. The sky is dark and starless. A torch, shaken by the wind, shines like a red serpent near the station. Near the torch dark figures are gathered together. I draw near. It is a group of soldiers who are examining a fine linen shirt covered with spots of blood. It is the shirt of Prince Oleg. During a reconnaissance on horseback he was wounded. He was brought to the station, bound, and hurried to the rear, almost dying, with a doctor: Here is a box of matches sodden with blood. It is said he will not pass the night. The soldiers cut his shirt into bits, which they keep as mementoes. 'In this war, little brothers, even dying does not give much trouble. There flows royal blood!' says a plaintive voice. I take out of the box one of the blood-stained matches, and hide it in my pocket-book. . . I shall keep it. No, this war is not an ordinary war; it has made a united Russia in which there circulates a single blood."

A COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT.

In reading these "Letters of Russian Soldiers," I remembered a collective judgment that Comte de Maistre, for long Ambassador at St. Petersburg, passed on the Russian people. The terms had not dwelt in my memory, but I recollected that these words full of sense and brightness answered a crowd of foolish things which has been said of them since then, and which must have already been spread in the beginning of the nineteenth century. I turned over the pages of several of these books, which are amongst the greatest that man has written. And in the second volume of the *Pope*, I found my quotation. Here it is. It is, I think, the most authoritative testimony, the most concise, and the most complete, that a foreigner has rendered to the Russian people. "Few travelled writers have spoken lovingly of the Russians. Nearly all have singled out their weak side to beguile the malice of readers. Yet this people is in a high degree honest, well-wishing, witty, hospitable, happily imitative and possesses a splendid language, without any admixture of dialect, even in the lowest classes."

THE LITERARY WORLD

ABOUT BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

An organisation, of which Mr. Alfred Perceval Graves is the Hon. Literary Director, has been formed with the title of "The Fighting Forces Book Council." It is important to point out that, while it has the approval of the War Office, Colonial Office, and Board of Education, and of the High Commissioners of the Dominions beyond the Seas, this organisation is intended to supplement, and not in any way to overlap, the existing organisations, such as the Camps Library, which is the recognised collecting and distributing depot for the books sent through the medium of the General Post Office, the Red Cross, and St. John Ambulance War Library, which supplies the hospitals, and the Young Men's Christian Association. The work done by these organisations is, however (mainly, if not entirely) that of distributing agents for the books generously supplied by the public, and sent by them through the Post Office or otherwise. These books are naturally of a miscellaneous kind, and consist preponderantly of light fiction. Some of the enormous numbers of books issued to the troops (about 100,000 weekly) make any systematic selection or classification impossible.

It has, however, been found that books of a more solid kind are largely asked for by an immense number of educated men now in the military service of the Empire, who find themselves cut off from the studies in which they were engaged and which they are still anxious to pursue. The objects of the Fighting Forces Book Council are, therefore, to try and meet this need, and at the same time to assist the existing organisations in every possible way. It proposes to—

1. Raise funds for providing reading matter of the kind indicated above for His Majesty's Forces at home and abroad, including the wounded in convalescent and the British prisoners of war.

2. Procure, by purchase or gift, books of this kind in sufficient quantities and arrange for their distribution through the Camps Library to the various organisations and corps.

3. Draw up lists of such books required by or suitable for various types of men.

Meanwhile the general supply through the Post Office has to be kept up, and in this connection Mr. L. W. Atkin Berry writes from the G.P.O., London, as follows:—For some time past the generous response made by the public to the various appeals issued for books and magazines to be sent to soldiers and sailors has been growing less. As you are aware, the Post would have seen entire obliteration. As matters stood, a fair number of them escaped through unknown defiles, although the casualties among the white-draped figures were very heavy.

ACCURATE GUNFIRE.

To return to the column on the move. Five miles out one party rode to the left flank and another to the right. The latter soon encountered a small advanced party of Bedouin, who retired after a skirmish. The column now broke up into artillery fire formation, and half a mile further along, the natives' two pieces of artillery opened fire. No sooner had these pieces barked than the 3-inch battery swung into action, had the range in a trice, and was scattering death among the dusky gunners. One high explosive sent the enemy's stack of shells sky-high with a loud, and a few rounds later a direct shot on the larger of the two pieces destroyed the gun. Not long after the warship lying off the coast accounted for the other. No time the infantry had deployed and was under fire from a strong body of natives on the first of a series of ridges. In front went one regiment, moving across country with the rapidity that characterises them when on the trot, the others, and the baggage, hard, under their weighty equipment came a second, with another as the third line close on their heels. The armoured motor cars driven with two lewis guns, dashed on in a wide sweep close up to the top of the ridge, and scattered their fusillade into the flying bands. Then, after a hundred a minute fatal confetti among the would be disturbers of Egypt's peace. The battery tossed up shrapnel with the nicety of Ireton or Parke at play. Then were too much even for the tenacious Arab, and his long white garments were soon flattering in a double for the next ridge.

From now on the infantry played the leading part in the fray. Bullets, three-ounce slugs, and nuts hissed and whirred around their ears. Their rifles warmed with a responding and more accurate fire. Their hearts loved it. This was what they relished in the fighting line, a mix-up, where they could see their foes, kill them, and pass the bodies with a gleaming eye on the way to the next rising. Yes, there were strained expressions on some faces, a slightly-wounded man might feel himself all over, only half convinced that he was not down for the full count, but such was the defect in the "squib" along by whole line. Who could flinch with officers strolling about, armed only with a lighted cigarette and a malacca cane, wherever the badly-aimed missiles ploughed up the dust the thickest? And the veterans soon recognised that they were among raw troops who cared as little for shot and shell as the oldest campaigner amongst them. Little grouping, mingled as they worked along together, not always strictly in harmony. Here is a typical sample. No, no, Johnny keep head down. He banged for a yarn. I was born first." The other tells him understand, and gets up for a better shot. One "grows very lemony" at losing his mark, and the other grinning points out another native for his chum to train his sight upon.

SIKH WOUNDED AVENGED.

So, fast friends in their rivalry, they scramble and glide along together. The machine-gun detachment was handled masterfully. Rigged in a twinkling, a couple of hundred rapped out, then on again, never a yard behind the firing line. The sturdy little mules mastered all the difficulties of the ground, surely service. The enemy were driven from ridge to ridge, suffering heavily at each stand.

What of the cavalry? All is well with them. At about two o'clock the Arabs had been driven back into a long, rocky nullah, pitted with caves, and offering excellent cover for defensive purposes. Here they had made their main enemy, and here they made their longest stand. The sorties had literally to be dug out of their hiding places, but the navvies were there with their tools, and the nullah was cleared from end to end before the camping ground was reached. Much ammunition was captured. Flocks of sheep, cattle, and fifty camels were driven back towards Matru. Piles of fodder were also set alight. Around the camping ground alone about 300 bodies of the enemy's dead were counted. Dusk had now come on, and a fair number of our foes remained to be dealt with. Our tactics had been without fault, yet darkness prevented the total success of our efforts. The plan was for the infantry and artillery to drive the enemy upon the cavalry, who had worked round in their rear. As it was, the mounted men punished the now flowing Arabs heavily, but it is estimated that some seven hundred made good their escape by the aid of the darkness and their knowledge of the difficult country into which the fighting had been carried.

In conformity with the plan of operations the British troops now abandoned the march back to the base. A spot, five miles from the scene of the last fighting, was made the first night's camp. Here they slept three hours, during which a volunteer party went back to rescue certain wounded reported to be in the long nullah. They feared for the lives of any men left behind. Their fears proved only too well founded. No wounded were found, but some of the dead had been grievously maltreated. The men probed every cave and crevice in the vicinity, and not a lurker there escaped the terrible revenge they took. The light of the burning fodder shone on evidence that we do not box with kid gloves when the punching is below the belt.

At daybreak to-day (Boxing Day) the column moved back into camp, tired out, it is true, with its long march and running fight across the sand, and then through boulder-strewn ravines, but high in spirits. Our boys closed up and infused rhythm into their step to show that the job was not too much for them, even if it had been done on a couple of biscuits for Christmas dinner, tea, and breakfast, plus an ounce or two of bully beef.

In the ridge-to-ridge fighting our casualties were small owing to the enemy's inferior arms. In fact, compared with the enemy's losses, our fourteen killed and fifty-odd wounded were a reasonable price for victory. The fighting on the North West Frontier of Egypt is, of course, a trifle in comparison to that in the other theatres of the great war, but the success of our arms is of the most vital importance for Egypt, which from many points of view is, strategically speaking, the most important country in the world at the present moment.

DESERT WARFARE.

THE FIGHT NEAR MERSA MATRU.

The following account of the fighting on the north-west coast of Egypt has been received in England. It is from an officer serving with the Egyptian Frontier Expeditionary Force:—

MERSA MATRU, Boxing Day, 1915.

A Christmas dinner on two Army biscuits, thirty miles of marching and fighting in twenty-six hours, and the enemy thoroughly dispersed and routed in one of the neatest little pieces of desert warfare seen in Egypt: that is a performance on which the troops in the Western Frontier Field Force are feeling gratefully elated this Boxing Day.

Even while a small party of the mingled host of Senussi and Beduins, who are opposing the British arms in the neighbourhood of Mersa Matrù, were carrying out a daring night attack on one of our sangars guarding the base, the troops, lying within the circle of protecting hills, were breakfasting prior to marching out across the desert to come to grips with a large body of natives assembled to the westward. Ignoring the local attack beyond the casual reference to stray bullets, the troops, some five thousand strong, fell into line at 4.30 o'clock on Christmas morn to drive back the enemy, reported by the Air Service to be some few thousand strong and to be preparing an offensive against Matru. Even as the columns swung out through the outpost line preparations were put in hand to render the base camp immune from surprise should the enemy attack its now scantily manned zangars. Tents were struck, packs packed, and the lumbering waggons packed behind the inner line of barbed wire, and all hands available manned the hilltops. Those of the A.S.C. who had not driven out with the convoy once more got their weapons ready for use and were stationed on the dune tops till the main body's return.

Speaking generally, the fight was a model battle, and how well they were being handled by the Staff was early brought home to the men and gave them confidence as to the result of the struggle. The various arms harmonised their actions as on manœuvres. The Air Wing at once served as the eyes of the infantry and cavalry, and as the "spotter" for the artillery, while signalling branches maintained expeditious and constant communications. Nor must the Navy's unit be forgotten. Its 6-inch punch from seaward was responsible for much slaughter and successful shepherding of the enemy into the land force's clutches. The experience of the fight at Racoon a week earlier apparently determined the Staff on making a rapid one-day enveloping movement. Night operations in such a country are all in favour of the natives, who know every gullah. It was the stubborn resistance of the Arabs in the day time that cheated our men of the total extermination of the foe. At the end of the struggle another bout of night work would have seen the entire obliteration. As matters stood, a fair number of them escaped through unknown defiles, although the casualties among the white-draped figures were very heavy.

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SMUGGLING IN WAR TIME.

HOW DUTCHMEN GET RICH QUICKLY.

FRONTIER SCENES.

SUDDEN GERMAN DEMAND FOR TOMBSTONES.

Mr. Joseph Williams Grigg, special correspondent of the *New York World*, writes from Rotterdam:—Not every bank account in Holland to-day is above suspicion. Men who have never prospered before have suddenly amassed tidy fortunes. Others have built houses and retired. You are not left long in doubt about the causes for some of this sudden affluence. It is the natural corollary of smuggling. I heard about smuggling as soon as I stepped ashore, and before I had been many days in Holland I found scores of persons who had friends in the same business or knew persons who were engaged in this traffic, but smugglers in the flesh are not easy to meet; they do not go around with brass bands when preparing to send across the border into Germany many things which are banned by their own Government.

I was informed by one of the highest Government officials that the principal duty of the Dutch Army just now is to prevent smuggling. "It would be a much easier task," he asserted, "if certain officers and men were not listening to tempting offers made them to permit things to cross into Germany.

THE PRO-BUSINESS DUTCHMAN.

A well-informed trade authority in Holland told me that he believed it would be a conservative estimate to say that 15 per cent. of the war profits in Holland in the last six months were traceable to smuggling. A business man in Rotterdam, speaking of this illicit traffic, said: "Smuggling in Holland is absolutely a matter of money. There is no sentiment about it. The persons who are doing the smuggling may be pro-Ally or pro-German. Above all else, they are pro-business.

Of such breaches of duty on the part of the military I have heard numerous accounts. Sentry duty along certain stretches of the border is a highly saleable commodity. The cousin of a Dutchman with whom I had considerable talk was offered £15 to turn his back while on sentry-go at one of these strategic points. He refused. The next night another soldier had this same post. He turned his head. As a consequence he was able to shake in the face of his more honest compatriot a small bag containing the equivalent of £17. The bonus is usually not so small. It depends on what is to cross the border. It might be oil, or horses, or automobiles. I was told that £60 bonuses had been paid.

SUPERFLUOUS RAILWAYMEN.

Until a recent law was promulgated in Holland to regulate the size of train crews it had become notoriously common for trains from Germany to come into Dutch territory manned by three times the number of men required. They first of all fed themselves. Then each man carried back with him as much as the law would allow. It really represented an endless chain, such as passengers on cheap excursions from the United States to Germany were meant to make.

Horse and cattle "stealing" was for a long period another method by which the Germans got their beef. Every Dutch peasant living in Groningen who frequently came into contact many told me that he was asked by a German why it was that Dutch pegs seemed to have such an impelling desire to enter Germany.

The same Dutchman then told me of a friend who had driven a great many pegs across the border after the Germans sang war began and was now wealthy. He had figured in twelve such transactions. It was not superstition that prevented him from repeating the dictum, but fear of the Government. Nevertheless the has annually used there twelve deals—at least for himself—by having a gold watch-chain made, the chief link of which is a twelve little gold pockets linked together. He also has a new house.

One of the most notorious smuggling episodes in Holland was that of the tombstones. A certain manufacturer in Rotterdam suddenly developed an enormous trade with Germany in tombstones and milestones. A facetious Dutchman said it looked as if there were to be one tombstone "for each Fritz at the front." And why should Germany buy milestones? A day came when it was discovered that both articles were only replacements for the badly needed potatoes.

SOAP THAT DID NOT WASH.

The Dutch Government had dammed another current, but there were still others. It soon developed that an enormous quantity of soap was going to Germany. One day Government inspectors discovered that it wouldn't wash. There was no lather in it. It was almost all linseed oil. The soap trade came a halt.

Next it was discovered that vessels plying between Dutch and German ports were always being refitted with new anchors and new propellers. Each time they returned to the Dutch ports with the same ones they had taken with them. These were left in Germany, because they were made of copper. The vessels always returned with a makeshift iron propeller or iron anchor. This was one of the smoothest schemes supposed to have been worked, and was not discovered for a long time.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

Nor did anyone have suspicions about the water barrels carried on the decks of barges that glide to and fro on the canals in Holland and so frequently had their way to Germany. Yet in time it was found that they did have some water in them on the way back from Germany. From Holland to Germany they were expanding their tube to the breaking point with oil.

I found in Government quarters in Holland a firm belief that with the establishment of the proposed "twilight zone" of five kilometres depth along the Dutch border that smuggling would be dealt its most effective blow. It will be under the rigid control of the military, and no goods must be stored therein.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET.

At Newcastle